



SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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March 28, 2025

RE: Letter of Support for E-Waste and Battery Stewardship

On behalf of the Scott County Board of Commissioners, we are writing to express our strong support for the E-waste and Battery Stewardship Bill HF1423/SF1690. This legislation addresses a critical issue that directly impacts our environment and local government.

Currently, Scott County residents bear the financial burden for the responsible disposal of electronic waste. In 2024 alone, Scott County processed and shipped 14,332 pounds of batteries and 312,888 pounds of e-waste, incurring a total cost of approximately \$85,000. Approximately, one to two semi loads of e-waste is shipped from the Scott County HHW every two weeks. The current method of proper disposal places strain on the County Household Hazardous Waste Facilities.

The proposed bill, which shifts the responsibility of end-of-life management to manufacturers, is a step towards a more sustainable and equitable system. We believe this Bill will benefit in several key areas:

- **Fire Safety:** Improper disposal of batteries poses a significant fire hazard, both during collection and processing. Manufacturer-led stewardship will ensure safer handling and disposal practices.
- **Economic Benefits:** By transferring the financial responsibility to manufacturers, this bill will alleviate the economic burden on counties and taxpayers. Consumers may see a very slight increase in cost of purchasing electronics because manufacturers forward the cost.
- **Economic Burden:** Current e-waste disposal fee at the HHW would be eliminated, reducing any financial roadblocks residents may have to disposing of such items at the HHW.
- **Environmental Protection:** Responsible e-waste management is essential for preventing soil and water contamination from hazardous materials. Manufacturer stewardship will promote recycling and reduce environmental impact.

Scott County strongly believes that the electronics and battery product stewardship proposal is responsible policy. We urge you to support this bill and help create a more sustainable and cost-effective system for managing e-waste and batteries.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Beer
Chair, County Board of Commissioners