Battery Council International
277 S Washington St, Suite 210
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 26, 2026

Before the Minnesota Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
SF 1690 (Kupec)
Oppose unless amended

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Battery Council International (BCI), I am pleased to provide written testimony today on **SF 1690 – An act Establishing a Stewardship Program for Circuit Boards, Batteries, and Electrical Products.**

At this time BCI must oppose the legislation, unless amended. BCI has been working with MN PCA and other stakeholders for several months on the new bill language, however, and BCI has agreed to support the committee passing the bill in order to provide more time to allow for continued collaborative work on the language.

I would like to note for the record that BCI's two concerns—and reason for today's opposition to the bill includes:

1. The definition of "Large lead-acid battery" (§ 3(w))
    a. This definition is unnecessarily complex and confusing, especially to the general public.
2. The changes to the existing (and extremely successful) lead battery law (§§ 14-16)
    a. Any changes narrowing the scope of the current collection and recycling of lead batteries will be opposed by BCI.

These concerns are inclusive of the conversations we have been having with MN PCA.

BCI has been the leading trade association for the incumbent battery industry since 1924. We represent over 125 members consisting of manufacturers, recyclers, and suppliers across North America. Our members produce 98% of U.S. lead batteries and have business portfolios in multiple battery chemistries in addition to lead (*e.g.*, lithium, flow, sodium).

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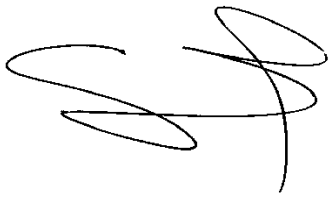
BCI applauds the state's efforts to further promote the collection and recycling of batteries and the products they power. The lead battery industry operates the most successful circular economy in the United States, recycling over 99% of end-of-life batteries each year.

Our first-hand experience demonstrates that recycling can be a principal component to a robust domestic manufacturing industry, increasing America's resource independence. At the same time, our recycling network reduces waste and limits greenhouse gas creation and environmental impacts. The industry is committed to safe and sustainable recycling methods to ensure that lead batteries are an essential part of an energy storage mix to achieve a cleaner, greener future. Approximately 90% of the lead batteries sold in North America are manufactured here, and at the end of life they are recycled here. And we see a bright future for other battery chemistries' domestic footprint and potential to build infrastructure for a closed-loop system in the U.S.

As noted above, the lead battery industry has built the world's most effective and efficient recycling network, which runs state-wide pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 325E.115, which was first adopted in 1987. This statute is based on the BCI Model Legislation for lead battery recycling, a form of which is in place in more than 40 states nationwide. It is the single most effective recycling framework in the nation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on behalf of Battery Council International. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further insight into the lead battery recycling network.

Kindest regards,



Susan E. Bernard
Vice President, Government Relations & Sustainability