March 26, 2026

Minnesota Senate
Commerce & Consumer Protection

Re: Battery Recycling (SF1690)

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Committee,

Eureka Recycling is committed to improving recycling and reducing waste in Minnesota. SF1690 is a key policy in helping us do this.

We are a social enterprise, recycler in the Twin Cities, processing over 100,000 tons of mostly residential recycling each year. We work to demonstrate that recycling can and should be done in ways that benefit our environment, communities, and the regional economy. Unfortunately, batteries placed in the recycling cart are increasingly impacting the health and safety of our workers and increasing the cost of doing business.

Over the years, we have experienced as many as 20 fires in a year—at times 1–2 per week—in our Material Recovery Facility (MRF) or inside one of our recycling trucks. These fires are caused by batteries that have been improperly disposed of in residential recycling carts. As we've seen at recycling facilities around the country, these fires can spread very quickly through highly flammable paper and plastic streams. The fires and the toxic smoke they produce pose serious risks to our team members and the surrounding community.

In addition to the danger of fires, batteries create significant direct costs for recycling systems. These costs include:

- **Insurance Costs:** Across the industry, we have seen dramatic increases in facility insurance costs—rising from less than 20 cents per $100 of insured property value to as much as $10 per $100. Battery fires are making it difficult or even impossible for some recyclers, including Eureka, to secure coverage.
- **Disposal Costs:** We remove and properly manage batteries that end up in our system, adding operational costs that are not currently covered by producers.
- **Equipment Costs:** Fires and battery-related incidents damage equipment and increase wear and tear due to heat exposure and emergency shutdowns.

Without a convenient, accessible, and well-funded system for proper battery collection and recycling, these risks and costs will continue to escalate. SF1690 provides a needed solution by creating a statewide system that makes battery recycling safe, accessible, and free for residents, while holding producers responsible for managing these materials at end of life.

We welcome you and your staff to visit Eureka and tour our MRF, where you can see firsthand the challenges batteries pose to the recycling system. We are happy to provide additional information and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Lucy Mullany
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Eureka Recycling
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