

**Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association**  
a chapter of the



TO: The Honorable C. T. Wilson, Chair  
Members, House Economic Matters Committee  
The Honorable Sara Love

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 468 – *Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland*

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The Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **support** House Bill 468.

Lithium-ion batteries are prevalent in a variety of devices and products in modern life, including in hearing aids, cell phones, e-bikes, scooters, laptops, tablets, and vaping devices. These devices pose a risk of fires or explosions when punctured. Chemical reactions occurring during the fires make them burn longer, hotter, and are difficult to extinguish.

Many of the devices powered by lithium-ion batteries listed above end up in the waste stream as people dispose of them. Our Association recently issued a [report](#) that estimates more than 5,000 fires a year at recycling and waste facilities and in collection trucks. While many recycling processing facility fires can be quickly contained, several facilities have been damaged so badly they had to be closed and rebuilt. The loss to the facility owner can be more than \$50 million dollars. In addition, local recycling programs relying on those facilities are forced to scramble to find new processing facilities for their recyclables.

The NWRA supports the concept of bringing all impacted stakeholders together to examine this issue and to make recommendations on how to deal with this increasingly challenging issue. Additionally, the NWRA thanks the bill sponsors for including us on the task force.

**For more information:**

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