

Written Testimony in Support of SB532 – Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland

February 22, 2024

To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

My name is Tom Taylor. I am submitting testimony as an individual and as an active community volunteer in environmental and ecology efforts in Maryland. I am writing in support of SB532.

This legislation establishes a commission to study and make recommendations for best practices and guidelines regarding lithium-ion battery fire safety, the reuse and recycling of these batteries, the viability of extended producer responsibility for these batteries, and improving public information and education about battery safety.

I support the establishment of this commission. News reports about fires caused by these batteries make it clear that recommendations and guidelines for battery safety are needed. And, to advance Maryland's environmental and waste reduction goals, strong policies are needed to ensure optimal reuse and recycling practices and effective producer responsibility for lithium-ion batteries.

I urge that recommendations issued by this commission include requirements for better recyclability design, safer disposal, and ultimate financial responsibility for the improvements and disposal. With the expanding use of lithium-ion batteries, effective requirements are needed to protect public safety and the state's environmental health.

I ask for a favorable report on SB532. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

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