



Recycled Materials
Association

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support of SB 553: Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland – Reestablishment

Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Justin Short, and I am in support of SB 553 as Assistant Vice President of State Affairs for the Recycled Materials Association (ReMA), as the representative of a battery recycling trade group on the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland from 2024 to 2025, and as a constituent of Montgomery County. ReMA represents 1,700 companies across the entire recycled materials supply chain that play a critical role in providing materials to America's manufacturing industries, including battery, electronics, metals, paper, plastics, residential, and tire recyclers.

The Commission served an essential role in bringing public and private stakeholders together to explore the challenges that have developed as lithium-ion and other rechargeable batteries have become part of everyday life. However, the scope of the challenges that we were identifying only continued to grow during the Commission's original term.

Persistent battery risks at the Port of Baltimore and other infrastructure sites necessitate continued collaboration. Ongoing challenges are further complicated by shifting insurance availability, rising provider costs, and new third-party standards. Additionally, several new proposals for the Commission's duties were introduced too late in the original term for a full discussion. These are critical issues for public safety as well as the continued safe operations of the recycled materials industry that the Commission did not have time to fully explore. As other states look to create their own groups to explore battery-related challenges, the Commission can serve a role in interstate collaboration by assisting those groups and gain additional insights into the process.

The majority of ReMA's more than 1,700 member companies, regardless of their location or commodities recycled, have been greatly impacted by lithium-ion batteries entering non-battery recycling streams; battery and electronics recyclers have been hurt by the loss of valuable products and materials that could have been reused, repaired, refurbished, repurposed, or recycled. The recycled materials industry continues to feel growing anxiety over the dangers that batteries of all sizes and formats present to their operations when not collected and managed properly.

ReMA's own Battery Policy Work Group was formed in 2024 with representatives across our membership to develop policy guidelines on how to address the end-of-life management of batteries, and while we have developed public Positions on Non-Embedded Small and Medium Format Batteries as well as Propulsion Batteries, we are only beginning to explore the scope of challenges presented by embedded batteries that are not easily removed from the products they power.

As the recycled materials industry continues to explore solutions to end-of-life battery collection and management issues, we hope that the General Assembly will choose to continue their own efforts to advance battery safety in Maryland. By aligning our industry's technical expertise with the State's legislative goals, we can build a safer, more circular economy for all Marylanders. We look forward to our continued dialogue on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Justin Short
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<https://www.recycledmaterials.org/>

<https://www.recycledmaterials.org/advocacy-compliance/policy-and-position-statements/>

[ReMA Position on Non-Embedded Small and Medium Format EOL Battery Management](#)

[ReMA Position on Propulsion Battery EOL Management](#)