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Written Testimony

Bill Number: HB 1386-FN

Bill Title/Description: An act relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators.

Committee: Environment and Agriculture

Position Taken: Support

Hearing Date: February 6, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

This bill prohibits the disposal of lithium-ion batteries.

Lithium-ion battery fires are a growing fire safety concern across the country. As the use of lithium-ion batteries increases so does the occurrences of fires. Of particular concern is the speed of fire growth and the peak heat release rate or intensity of these fires. Lithium-ion batteries can experience thermal runaway, which can result in overheating, flaming, and in some cases, an explosion. Significant work is underway to study this issue.

A national initiative was launched in November 2023 to educate consumers about lithium-ion battery safety. The Take C.H.A.R.G.E of Battery Safety campaign focuses on these topics:

1. Choose certified products.
2. Handle lithium-ion battery powered devices with care.
3. Always stay alert for warning signs.
4. Recycle devices and batteries properly.
5. Get out quickly if there is a fire.
6. Educate others on safe practices.

The proper recycling of devices and batteries has been identified as one of the six key initiatives as part of this national campaign. Taking unwanted lithium-ion batteries to a battery recycling center and never disposing of them in regular trash is a critical step in ensuring battery safety.

This bill aligns with national fire safety initiatives and will improve fire safety for citizens and visitors of our state and as such we support HB 1386.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean P. Toomey".

Sean P. Toomey, PE
State Fire Marshal