

January 20, 2026

The Hon. Judy Aron, Chair
House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room: 153
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1602, an act creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program

Dear Chairwoman Aron and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) in support of House Bill 1602, which would establish a statewide battery stewardship program to ensure the safe collection, recycling, and management of covered batteries. CLF's mission is to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and build healthy communities in New Hampshire and throughout New England. Through its Communities and Toxics Program, CLF works with communities to protect them and our environment from the dangers of unsustainable waste practices and to advance waste reduction, diversion, and recycling. **CLF strongly supports HB 1602 and urges the committee to vote *ought to pass*.**

HB 1602 would establish a producer-funded recycling infrastructure for lithium-ion and all covered batteries statewide. Americans discard millions of batteries every year, which can release hazardous materials such as mercury and lead into the environment.¹ They are made using critical minerals that are intensive to collect, and recycling programs can preserve some of those resources.²

This legislation will deliver significant benefits for New Hampshire by creating a producer-funded system that ensures batteries are collected and recycled safely, reducing fire hazards and preventing toxic metals from contaminating soil and water. It will also conserve valuable resources by recovering critical minerals from used batteries, reducing the need for environmentally destructive mining.

This bill would help us reach New Hampshire's statutory goal to reduce the weight of solid waste being disposed of by 25% by 2030, and 45% by 2050.³ Improving recycling rates for these batteries would also reduce the toxicity of the solid waste stream, advancing Goal 2 of the Solid

¹ *Recycle more batteries so they do less harm*, Product Stewardship Institute, <https://productstewardship.us/products/batteries>

² *Recycle more batteries so they do less harm*, Product Stewardship Institute, <https://productstewardship.us/products/batteries>

³ [Section 149-M:2 Solid Waste Disposal Reduction Goal. \(state.nh.us\)](https://www.state.nh.us/leg/section149-M-2-Solid-Waste-Disposal-Reduction-Goal)



Waste Management Plan.⁴ Importantly, the bill shifts the financial burden away from municipalities and taxpayers, saving local governments thousands of dollars each year in disposal costs while providing residents with convenient, no-cost recycling options.

HB 1602 is thoughtfully designed to make compliance simple and fair. Battery producers are responsible for funding the entire battery stewardship program, including collection, transportation, processing, and environmentally sound recycling of all covered batteries. Retailers are not required to serve as collection sites, though they may choose to do so voluntarily. Retailers are deemed compliant if the Department of Environmental Services lists the producer or brand on its publicly accessible website. Consumers will never pay an added fee at the point of sale or at collection sites. This approach ensures that the responsibility for managing batteries at end-of-life rests with those who manufacture and sell them, not with retailers or the public.

HB 1602 would protect our communities and the environment by ensuring proper management of an otherwise avoidable and costly waste stream. For these reasons, CLF urges you to vote *ought to pass* on HB 1602.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nora Bosworth", is written over a horizontal line.

Nora Bosworth
Staff Attorney, Communities and Toxics
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⁴ [2022 NH Solid Waste Management Plan](#)