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January 20, 2026

Chairman Judy Aron and Vice Chairman Liz Barbour
House Environment and Agriculture Committee
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: **SUPPORT** – **HB 1602, Creating a Safe Battery Recycling Stewardship Program**

Dear Chairman Aron, Vice Chairman Barbour, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1602. PSI strongly supports the establishment of a producer funded and managed battery stewardship program in New Hampshire.

HB 1602 includes several best practices commonly found in effective battery stewardship laws, including a clear responsible party hierarchy, comprehensive collection network requirements, state oversight through the Department of Environmental Services, and strong enforcement mechanisms that prohibit the sale of batteries from non-participating producers. Together, these elements provide a strong, balanced framework for improving battery collection, recycling, and public safety while reducing costs to local governments and taxpayers.

REDUCING GROWING PUBLIC SAFETY RISKS

Improper disposal of batteries, particularly those including lithium-ion, poses significant and growing public safety risks. When damaged, crushed, or exposed to heat, lithium-ion batteries can ignite or explode, causing fires in trucks and at transfer stations, material recovery facilities, and landfills, resulting in injuries, fatalities, costly facility shutdowns, and millions of dollars in property damage nationwide. These incidents endanger workers, first responders, and the public, while driving up insurance costs and placing increasing financial and operational burdens on local governments and waste management operators.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Effective battery stewardship programs are critical to reducing these risks by improving safe collection, handling, and recycling practices statewide. These programs increase safe collection and recycling, reducing the number of improperly disposed batteries while minimizing the release of hazardous

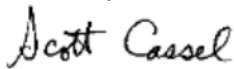
materials. By promoting higher recycling rates and material recovery, these programs capture critical minerals and other valuable materials that don't need to be imported from other countries. Recycling also reduces environmental harms associated with raw material extraction and processing and supports broader environmental goals by encouraging safer product design and advancing a more circular approach to battery management.

PSI EXPERTISE & PRECEDENT

PSI is a national policy expert and consulting nonprofit that pioneered product stewardship in the United States. Since 2000, PSI facilitated dialogues, research, pilot projects, and policy development have helped shape more than 145 EPR laws across numerous product categories, including batteries. Since 2014, multiple states, including Nebraska most recently, have enacted battery stewardship laws. PSI has worked for more than two decades with state and local governments, producers, recyclers, and other stakeholders to develop the policy models that informed these laws.

For these reasons, PSI respectfully urges the Committee to support HB 1602 to advance public safety, environmental protection, and cost-effective battery management in New Hampshire. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (617) 513-3954, or Scott@ProductStewardship.US.

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel

Chief Executive Officer/Founder