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Feb. 25, 2026

Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair
Joanne M. Comerford, Vice Chair
Paul R. Feeney, Assistant Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
24 Beacon St., Room 212
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133



RE: Support for S2542; Request for WRNA funding, EPR Outside Sections

Dear Chair Rodrigues, Vice Chair Comerford, Assistant Vice Chair Feeney and committee members,
Thank you for your attention to the environment, and for the opportunity to comment on S2542, An Act to build resiliency for Mass. communities.

The resiliency of our waste disposal and recycling systems has been in peril for several years. The 18-Town [South Shore Recycling Cooperative](#) (SSRC) requests that the Senate Ways and Means Committee include **\$1.2 million in funding for a waste reduction needs assessment (WRNA)** for packaging and printed paper waste, as proposed in [S570](#); that [S570](#) and [S647](#) be reported **out favorably or included as outside sections** of S2542; and that [S556/H968](#) be included as an **outside section**. These provide for the WRNA, and the enactment of paint and battery extended producer responsibility laws, respectively. (Details follow.)

Pursuant to Section 108 of Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024, a special legislative commission was established to recommend to the General Court extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies for the Commonwealth. The **EPR Commission** was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and comprised a diverse set of stakeholders. The recommendations that we have included below are supported by the **recommendations outlined in the EPR Commission's [final report](#)**.

S570, An Act establishing a waste reduction needs assessment in the Commonwealth

Massachusetts is in the midst of an escalating **waste disposal crisis**. The annual amount of waste generated by the Commonwealth is nearly double the state's waste disposal capacity. Because of our limited capacity, 45% of our waste is hauled to other states as distant as **Alabama and**

Michigan, some in environmental justice communities. Without the capacity to manage our own waste, we are increasingly **vulnerable to out-of-state costs and regulations** beyond our control.

To address our waste capacity crisis, the EPR Commission endorsed funding for and the conduct of a needs assessment to collect data on current waste system performance, and determine the policies, systems, and funding shifts needed to reduce the volume of our waste. The findings from the assessment will inform much-needed **comprehensive recycling reform legislation** to provide financial relief to municipal budgets and households, and reduce our reliance on waste exportation. [S570](#), *An Act establishing a waste reduction needs assessment in the Commonwealth*, has been moved favorably to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Ten states, including Maine, Rhode Island, and New York have passed laws to perform similar needs assessments. We request that S570 be reported out favorable, or included in S2542, and that \$1.2M in funding be included in the S.2542 package for the needs assessment. This figure is based on costs in the several states that have already done this. [S570 Summary](#)

S556/H968, An Act establishing a lithium-ion battery stewardship program

(S556 did not advance from ENR, though its House counterpart H968, did)

An EPR law is urgently needed to address battery-related fires at waste facilities, create a self-funded battery recycling program, increase battery recycling convenience for the public, and recover valuable materials to make new batteries.

During the collection and handling of trash and recyclables, improperly managed lithium batteries can be punctured and exposed to water, which causes them to ignite. Because trash and recycling streams contain highly flammable materials such as paper and plastic, lithium-ion battery fires in collection vehicles or facilities can have devastating consequences. These fires have been increasing in frequency over the years, resulting in shutdowns and higher facility insurance fees.



An extended producer responsibility law is a much-needed solution to improper battery disposal. This bill would create much-needed, convenient battery recycling infrastructure through a statewide network of voluntary, no-cost collection sites and provide sustainable funding for battery recycling paid for by battery manufacturers. This program also includes a uniform, robust campaign to educate consumers how to properly manage batteries at end-of-life, which will reduce the frequency of misplaced batteries and subsequent fires. All types of batteries would be collected at all collection points to minimize consumer confusion.

[H968 /S556 Summary](#)

S.647, An Act relative to paint recycling

An extended producer responsibility law is needed to create a robust, sustainably-funded paint

collection network.

The current system of paint disposal is inconvenient for residents and expensive for municipalities. It is estimated that Massachusetts municipalities spend \$2 million annually managing oil-based paint as hazardous waste, while substantially larger quantities of recyclable leftover latex paint are landfilled. Residents are supposed to absorb the paint with kitty litter before disposing. Twelve states plus the District of Columbia operate successful and nearly identical paint recycling laws as outlined in [S647](#), holding paint manufacturers responsible for collecting and managing leftover oil-based and latex paint. The American Coatings Association, representing paint manufacturers, along with numerous other stakeholders support the passage of this law. [S647 Summary](#)



In summary, **the SSRC respectfully requests that you, our elected leaders, move favorably on [S2542](#) , and include \$1.2M in funding for a Waste Reduction Needs Assessment, as proposed in [S570](#), the addition of outside sections with the language from the WRNA bill [S570](#), the battery EPR bill, [S556](#) and the paint EPR bill, [S647](#).** Alternatively, please report S570 and S647 out favorably and soon as stand-alone bills

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and for your public service.

Sincerely,

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CC: Sen. Michael Brady, SW&M, South Shore delegation
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Sen. Dylan Fernandes, South Shore delegation
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Sen. John Keenan, South Shore delegation