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February 25, 2025

Chair Tepler and Chair Doudera  
Maine Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Cross Building, Room 216  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Re: CTA Comments on LD474, Sponsor's Amendment to Concept Draft**

Dear Chair Tepler, Chair Doudera, and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

On behalf of Consumer Technology Association (CTA)<sup>1</sup>, we respectfully oppose the LD474 Sponsor's Amendment to Concept Draft. The language in the amendment was developed and first proposed in the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) draft Annual Product Stewardship Report (January 2026). The public comment period for the annual report ended February 12, and the language in the LD474 Sponsor's Amendment is not reflective of comments received during the public comment period for the annual report nor the comments submitted and feedback Maine DEP received during the stakeholder process that occurred in 2025 on updates to a rechargeable battery recycling program in Maine.

CTA was an active stakeholder in that 2025 DEP stakeholder process. CTA participated in the stakeholder meetings held by the Maine DEP on August 12 and September 25 and submitted written comments to the Maine DEP in September and October 2025. Those written comments along with CTA's comments on the draft Annual Product Stewardship Report (January 2026) can be found attached to these comments. CTA also met directly with Maine DEP in the fall of 2025 to discuss our concerns on how to manage battery embedded products, stressing that products have a different collection and recycling system than removable batteries and cannot be lumped into the same program.

The battery extended producer responsibility (EPR) language in the draft Annual Product Stewardship Report and in LD474 Sponsor's Amendments to the Concept Draft are not reflective of any of the concerns CTA raised over the past year. CTA has been active and vocal because of concerns that Maine DEP would take this approach of lumping products in with removable batteries and the inherent flaws that presents for a program. As an industry, CTA's members have supported the proper collection and recycling of electronics in Maine under the EPR

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<sup>1</sup> CTA is the trade association representing the U.S. consumer technology industry. Our members are the world's leading innovators – from startups to global brands to retailers – helping support more than 18 million American consumer technology jobs. CTA's members include manufacturers of consumer electronic devices such as televisions, computer monitors, laptops and game consoles covered by the Maine Electronic Waste Program.

program for electronics for almost 20 years, diverting more than 100 million pounds of electronics from the waste stream.<sup>2</sup> CTA and our member companies understand the unique needs of collecting and recycling products and brings this perspective to the dialogue on how best to handle battery embedded products.

### **Specific Concerns on LD474 Sponsor's Amendment**

First, CTA would like to highlight that the Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA) has model legislation establishing a stewardship program for portable batteries. This law or a similar equivalent has been adopted in 7 states plus the District of Columbia (DC) with over 20 additional states introducing the model legislation in 2026. Maine must seek alignment with other states to ensure harmonization across jurisdictions and a consistent program across the U.S. for manufacturers and stewardship organizations. The proposal in this amendment is not harmonized with what is happening elsewhere in the U.S.

Second, CTA strongly opposes the inclusion of battery embedded products in a battery stewardship program. CTA has been consistent in our messaging across the public comments we submitted in 2025 as part of the stakeholder process, our verbal comments during the stakeholder meetings, our verbal comments in meeting directly with Maine DEP, and in CTA's written comments to the draft Annual Product Stewardship Report (January 2026).

In the "Strawman proposal for Maine's Battery Stewardship program" that was shared by Maine DEP with stakeholders on September 24, 2025, the Maine DEP indicated it would be conducting additional evaluation around how best to handle battery embedded products. It was unclear in the draft Annual Product Stewardship Report (January 2026) what additional evaluation occurred between September 2025 and January 2026, and how Maine DEP decided upon including battery embedded products as part of its recommended battery stewardship program.

The scope of what falls into the category of battery embedded products is still being discovered. California's recent advanced recovery fee law<sup>3</sup> for battery embedded products went into effect on January 1, 2026, and, what's been determined so far, is a very diverse set of products ranging from consumer electronics to pet products to textiles to toys to large appliances to gardening and lawn care equipment. The product list in California continues to expand almost weekly. Most of the industries representing those products did not participate in the stakeholder dialogue in Maine in 2025 and are likely unaware of the Maine DEP's interest in this topic.

Most importantly, not all of these products can be handled in the same system nor are they compatible with the battery recycling system. The collection and recycling infrastructure for products is vastly different than for batteries. Batteries are much smaller than products and can be easily collected at collection infrastructure (e.g. The Battery Network, formerly Call2Recycle, designed boxes) that are not compatible for the majority of battery embedded products. Additionally, the producer responsibility organization or stewardship organization (the Battery Network, formerly Call2Recycle) that operates for batteries has no experience in the U.S. with

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<sup>2</sup> Data pulled from Maine DEP's Report to the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Annual Product Stewardship Report, February 2025. Report available at the Maine DEP website at [2025-Product-Stewardship-Report-With-Comments-FINAL.pdf](#).

<sup>3</sup> Under SB1215, consumers in California will pay a fee at the point of purchase of any battery embedded product. Those fees fund the collection and recycling system for battery embedded products at rates established by CalRecycle. More information can be found at <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/electronics/embeddedbatteries/>.

collecting products. The LD474 Sponsor's Amendment would be forcing products upon a system and organization built around the collection and recycling for batteries only.

As it relates to battery embedded products, some product types may need a separate system for collection and recycling based on their material composition and the economics of the value of that material; the mandate of a single PRO structure prevents that from occurring. For example, a large appliance is made primarily of metals with some plastic and a battery embedded on the circuit board of the product while a singing teddy bear or a light-up tennis shoe is a textile with a battery. Vapes can contain nicotine or cannabis both of which are heavily regulated substances and issues arise in being able to transport used vapes across state borders for handling or recycling. We know electronics recyclers do not want vaping devices at their facilities; items such as lawn equipment that may also contain gasoline or other hazardous liquids that present a significant problem for electronics recyclers; and textiles are incompatible with electronics recycling systems. Maine DEP cannot treat all products as equal and force them into the same collection and recycling system just because they all share the same characteristic of an embedded battery.

There are studies underway in Illinois, Vermont and Washington on recommendations for managing battery embedded products that will yield additional information that can better inform Maine's approach to these products. As noted, California just began its program requiring consumers to pay a fee at the point of purchase for any battery embedded product on January 1. The fees will then fund the collection and recycling system for battery embedded products in the state. Maine will be able to learn more about the universe of battery embedded products as California's list of products continues to expand and more information on how products are being managed in the recycling stream in California is made available. We are hearing that electronics recyclers may place limits on the type of battery embedded products they accept in California even with the state funding given the concerns on compatibility with their recycling systems designed for handling traditional electronic devices.

Other jurisdictions such as the Quebec, Canada are pursuing a phased in approach via small groupings of similar product categories<sup>4</sup> that involved building the collection and recycling infrastructure from the ground up. The producer responsibility organization had to build from scratch the collection locations as well as viable downstream recyclers for the material. It is notable that Quebec has EPR systems for batteries and electronics but determined that none of these battery embedded products were compatible with those existing systems.

CTA strongly recommends that the Maine take a similar approach to other jurisdictions and further study the best path forward for managing battery embedded products within the state. Again, this was also the recommendation that was included in the Maine DEP's "Strawman proposal for Maine's Battery Stewardship program" back in September but didn't make it into the draft Annual Report and therefore the LD474 Sponsor's Amendment. Additional dialogue and evaluation are needed via a stakeholder process specific to Maine to determine whether these products fit into an existing collection and recycling infrastructure (e.g. a battery EPR program or the existing electronics EPR program) or if a new and unique collection and recycling infrastructure needs to be developed based on a variety of factors (e.g. what is currently being done in Quebec).

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<sup>4</sup> The product groupings include: vapes, personal care products (e.g. toothbrushes, shavers), personal sexual wellness devices, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and small floor cleaning devices.

All signs point to battery embedded products being a complex issue that requires additional evaluation and study. CTA is supportive of a solution for battery embedded products, but further discussion and evaluation is the right next step, not just requiring a battery stewardship organization to collect battery embedded products when it doesn't want those products nor is it equipped to handle those products.

**Conclusion**

CTA strongly cautions the Maine Legislature with moving forward with the LD474 Sponsor's Amendment to Concept Draft. We hope both the Maine Legislature and the Maine DEP take our concerns seriously and choose not to move forward with this language.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [kreilly@cta.tech](mailto:kreilly@cta.tech).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Reilly', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Katie Reilly  
VP, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability  
Consumer Technology Association

**CTA Prior Comments to Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
in Response to the Maine Battery Management Program Stakeholder Process**



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February 12, 2025

Brian Beneski  
Division of Materials Management  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Via email at [brian.beneski@maine.gov](mailto:brian.beneski@maine.gov)

**Re: CTA Comments on Maine’s Annual Product Stewardship Report (January 2026)**

Dear Maine Department of Environmental Protection,

On behalf of Consumer Technology Association (CTA), we respectfully submit these comments on the Annual Product Stewardship Report (January 2026) as it relates to the Electronic Waste Program and the proposed updates to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Program.

CTA is the trade association representing the U.S. consumer technology industry. Our members are the world’s leading innovators – from startups to global brands to retailers – helping support more than 18 million American consumer technology jobs. CTA’s members include manufacturers of consumer electronic devices such as televisions, computer monitors, laptops and game consoles covered by the Maine Electronic Waste Program. As an industry, CTA’s members have supported the proper collection and recycling of electronics in Maine under the program for almost 20 years, diverting more than 100 million pounds of electronics from the waste stream.<sup>1</sup>

**Comments on E-Waste**

The Annual Product Stewardship Report indicates that “The Department intends to review and update the e-waste rules (*Reasonable Costs for Handling, Transportation, and Recycling of Electronic Wastes*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 415) in 2026 as they have not been updated since 2018.” CTA is not clear from the information in the report what specific aspects of the e-waste rules warrant an update or what aspects of the rules may be in focus for updating. CTA requests that Maine DEP provide additional details in the Annual Product Stewardship Report on what it intends to update related to the e-waste rules.

CTA will play an active role in any stakeholder process, and we encourage the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to thoughtfully and thoroughly consider any

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<sup>1</sup> Data pulled from Maine DEP’s Report to the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Annual Product Stewardship Report, February 2025. Report available at the Maine DEP website at [2025-Product-Stewardship-Report-With-Comments-FINAL.pdf](#).

updates to the program. Several electronics extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws have been updated in the timeframe since Maine's last update (and others like Minnesota and Maryland are actively pursuing updates) and there are many lessons learned across those state programs. CTA is ready to serve as a resource to Maine DEP.

### **Comments on Battery Embedded Products**

CTA was an active stakeholder in the 2025 DEP process to evaluate a proposal for a battery stewardship program in Maine. CTA participated in the stakeholder meetings held by the Maine DEP on August 12 and September 25 and submitted written comments to the Maine DEP in September and October 2025. Those written comments can be found attached to these comments.

First, CTA would like to highlight that the Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA) has model legislation establishing a stewardship program for portable batteries. This law or a similar equivalent has been adopted in 7 states plus the District of Columbia (DC) with over 20 additional states introducing the model legislation in 2026. Maine must seek alignment with other states to ensure harmonization across jurisdictions and a consistent program across the U.S. for manufacturers and stewardship organizations.

Second, CTA strongly opposes the inclusion of battery embedded products in a battery stewardship program as stated in the proposed legislative language found in Appendix B of the Annual Product Stewardship Report. CTA has been consistent in our messaging across the public comments we submitted in 2025 as well as our comments during the stakeholder meetings.

The "Strawman proposal for Maine's Battery Stewardship program" that was shared by Maine DEP with stakeholders on September 24, 2025, indicated that Maine DEP would be conducting additional evaluation around how best to handle battery embedded products. It is unclear from this report what additional evaluation occurred between September 2025 and January 2026, and how Maine DEP decided upon including battery embedded products as part of its recommended battery stewardship program. Those details must be included and outlined for transparency purposes.

This is not the right approach which was stressed in CTA's prior comments. The scope of what falls into the category of battery embedded products is still being discovered. California's recent advanced recovery fee law<sup>2</sup> for battery embedded products went into effect on January 1, 2026, and, what's been determined so far, is a very diverse set of products ranging from consumer electronics to pet products to textiles to toys to large appliances to gardening and lawn care equipment. The product list in California continues to expand almost weekly. Most of the industries representing those products did not participate in the stakeholder dialogue in Maine in 2025, and are likely unaware of the Maine DEP's interest in this topic.

Most importantly, not all of these products can be handled in the same system nor are they compatible with the battery recycling system. The collection and recycling infrastructure for products is vastly different than for batteries. Batteries are much smaller than products and can

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<sup>2</sup> Under SB1215, consumers in California will pay a fee at the point of purchase of any battery embedded product. Those fees fund the collection and recycling system for battery embedded products at rates established by CalRecycle. More information can be found at <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/electronics/embeddedbatteries/>.

be easily collected at collection infrastructure (e.g. The Battery Network, formerly Call2Recycle, designed boxes) that are not compatible for the majority of battery embedded products. Additionally, the producer responsibility organization or stewardship organization (the Battery Network, formerly Call2Recycle) that operates for batteries has no experience in the U.S. with collecting products. Maine DEP would be forcing products upon a system and organization built around the collection and recycling for batteries which are incompatible.

As it relates to battery embedded products, some product types may need a separate system for collection and recycling based on their material composition and the economics of the value of that material; the mandate of a single PRO structure prevents that from occurring. For example, a large appliance is made primarily of metals with some plastic and a battery embedded on the circuit board of the product while a singing teddy bear or a light-up tennis shoe is a textile with a battery. Vapes can contain nicotine or cannabis both of which are heavily regulated substances and issues arise in being able to transport used vapes across state borders for handling or recycling. We know electronics recyclers do not want vaping devices at their facilities; items such as lawn equipment that may also contain gasoline present a significant problem for electronics recyclers; and textiles are incompatible with electronics recycling systems. Maine DEP cannot treat all products as equal and force them into the same collection and recycling system just because they all share the same characteristic of an embedded battery.

There are studies underway in Illinois, Vermont and Washington on recommendations for managing battery embedded products that will yield additional information that can better inform Maine's approach to these products. As noted, California just began its program requiring consumers to pay a fee at the point of purchase for any battery embedded product on January 1. The fees will then fund the collection and recycling system for battery embedded products in the state. Maine will be able to learn more about the universe of battery embedded products as California's list of products continues to expand and more information on how products are being managed in the recycling stream in California is made available.

Other jurisdictions such as the Quebec, Canada are pursuing a phased in approach via small groupings of similar product categories<sup>3</sup> that involved building the collection and recycling infrastructure from the ground up. The product responsibility organization had to build from scratch the collection locations as well as viable downstream recyclers for the material. It is notable that Quebec has EPR systems for batteries and electronics but determined none of these battery embedded products were compatible with those existing systems.

CTA strongly recommends that the Maine DEP take a similar approach to other jurisdictions and further study the best path forward for managing battery embedded products within the state. Again, this was also the recommendation that was included in the Maine DEP's "Strawman proposal for Maine's Battery Stewardship program" back in September. Additional dialogue and evaluation are needed via a stakeholder process specific to Maine to determine whether these products fit into an existing collection and recycling infrastructure (e.g. a battery EPR program or the existing electronics EPR program) or if a new and unique collection and recycling infrastructure needs to be developed based on a variety of factors.

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<sup>3</sup> The product groupings include: vapes, personal care products (e.g. toothbrushes, shavers), personal sexual wellness devices, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and small floor cleaning devices.

All signs point to battery embedded products being a complex issue that requires additional evaluation and study. CTA is supportive of a solution for battery embedded products, but further discussion and evaluation is the right next step, not just requiring a battery stewardship organization to collect battery embedded products when it doesn't want those products nor is it equipped to handle those products.

**Conclusion**

CTA appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on Maine's Annual Product Stewardship Report for 2026. We hope Maine DEP takes our concerns seriously and amends the current language reflecting CTA's comments above. CTA looks forward to future stakeholder engagement.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [kreilly@cta.tech](mailto:kreilly@cta.tech).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Reilly', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Reilly  
VP, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability  
Consumer Technology Association



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September 24, 2025

Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Via email at [DNRWle-cycling@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWle-cycling@wisconsin.gov)

**Re: CTA Comments on Maine Battery Management Program Stakeholder Process**

Chair Maine Department of Environmental Protection,

On behalf of Consumer Technology Association (CTA), we respectfully submit these comments as part of the stakeholder process seeking public input on Maine's battery management program.

CTA is the trade association representing the U.S. consumer technology industry. Our members are the world's leading innovators – from startups to global brands to retailers – helping support more than 18 million American consumer technology jobs. As an industry, we have supported the proper collection and recycling of electronics in Maine for almost 20 years, diverting more than 100 million pounds of electronics from the waste stream.<sup>1</sup>

CTA participated in the first stakeholder meeting held by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on August 12. CTA appreciates the "Strawman proposal for Maine's Battery Stewardship program" shared with stakeholders on September 24. In response to the proposal, CTA has one question and one comment.

**Question on Products**

CTA would like to seek clarity on the listed covered products, specifically "Products that have batteries included in sale (ex: remote control, etc.)". CTA would like to clarify which of the following scenarios is the intention of DEP:

1. Require producers of "products that have batteries included in sale" to pay into the producer responsibility program for the batteries included in the sale of the product but not require the products themselves to be collected in the system.
2. Require producers of "products that have batteries included in sale" to pay into the producer responsibility program for both the batteries and the products sold in Maine and require the collection of both the batteries and the products.

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<sup>1</sup> Data pulled from Maine DEP's Report to the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Annual Product Stewardship Report, February 2025. Report available at the Maine DEP website at [2025-Product-Stewardship-Report-With-Comments-FINAL.pdf](#).

Scenario 1 is the standard approach here in the U.S. for battery stewardship laws and CTA would recommend that approach.

### **Comments on Battery Embedded Products**

CTA appreciates Maine DEP's approach for battery embedded products to do additional evaluation and development of how best to handle battery embedded products. The scope of what falls into the category of battery embedded products is still being discovered and, what's been determined so far, is a very diverse set of products ranging from consumer electronics to light up tennis shoes to gardening and lawn care equipment to vaping products. The studies underway in several states will yield additional information that can better inform Maine's approach to these products.

Additional dialogue and evaluation are needed via a stakeholder process specific to Maine to determine whether these products fit into an existing collection and recycling infrastructure or if a new and unique collection and recycling infrastructure needs to be developed based on a variety of factors. For example, we know electronics recyclers do not want vaping devices at their facilities and items such as lawn equipment that may also contain gasoline present a significant problem as well. Other jurisdictions such as the Quebec, Canada are pursuing a phased in approach via small groupings of similar product categories that, in many cases, have involved building the collection and recycling infrastructure from the ground up including finding viable downstream outlets for the material.

CTA is supportive of a solution for battery embedded products, but further discussion and evaluation is the right next step.

### **Conclusion**

CTA appreciates this opportunity to engage as part of Maine's stakeholder process for battery management plan, and we look forward to next steps in the process.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [kreilly@cta.tech](mailto:kreilly@cta.tech).

Sincerely,



Katie Reilly  
VP, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability  
Consumer Technology Association



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October 7, 2025

Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Via email at [Battery.DEP@maine.gov](mailto:Battery.DEP@maine.gov)

**Re: CTA Comments on Maine's Battery Management Program**

Dear Maine Department of Environmental Protection,

On behalf of Consumer Technology Association (CTA), we respectfully submit these comments as part of the stakeholder process seeking public input on Maine's battery management program.

CTA is the trade association representing the U.S. consumer technology industry. Our members are the world's leading innovators – from startups to global brands to retailers – helping support more than 18 million American consumer technology jobs. As an industry, we have supported the proper collection and recycling of electronics in Maine for almost 20 years, diverting more than 100 million pounds of electronics from the waste stream.<sup>1</sup>

CTA participated in the first stakeholder meeting held by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on August 12 and the second meeting on September 25. CTA appreciates the "Strawman proposal for Maine's Battery Stewardship program" shared with stakeholders on September 24. In response to the proposal, CTA would like to address the issue of products with embedded (aka non-removable) batteries.

**Comments on Battery Embedded Products**

CTA appreciates Maine DEP's approach for battery embedded products to do additional evaluation and development of how best to handle battery embedded products. The scope of what falls into the category of battery embedded products is still being discovered and, what's been determined so far, is a very diverse set of products ranging from consumer electronics to light up tennis shoes to gardening and lawn care equipment to vaping products.

The studies underway in several states on recommendations for managing battery embedded products – including Illinois, Vermont and Washington – will yield additional information that can better inform Maine's approach to these products. California will also begin requiring consumers to pay a fee at the point of purchase for any battery embedded product beginning January 1,

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<sup>1</sup> Data pulled from Maine DEP's Report to the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Annual Product Stewardship Report, February 2025. Report available at the Maine DEP website at [2025-Product-Stewardship-Report-With-Comments-FINAL.pdf](#).

2026. The fees will then fund the collection and recycling system for battery embedded products in the state. Maine will be able to learn more about the universe of battery embedded products once California makes publicly available information on the products where the fee will be applied as well as how products are managed in the waste and recycling stream.

CTA strongly recommends that the Maine DEP take a similar approach to states like Vermont in further studying the best path forward for managing battery embedded products. Additional dialogue and evaluation are needed via a stakeholder process specific to Maine to determine whether these products fit into an existing collection and recycling infrastructure (e.g. a battery EPR program or the existing electronics EPR program) or if a new and unique collection and recycling infrastructure needs to be developed based on a variety of factors. For example, we know electronics recyclers do not want vaping devices at their facilities; items such as lawn equipment that may also contain gasoline present a significant problem as well. Other jurisdictions such as the Quebec, Canada are pursuing a phased in approach via small groupings of similar product categories that, in many cases, have involved building the collection and recycling infrastructure from the ground up including finding viable downstream outlets for the material.

All signs point to battery embedded products being a complex issue that requires additional evaluation and study. CTA is supportive of a solution for battery embedded products, but further discussion and evaluation is the right next step. CTA would welcome the opportunity to be a part of any stakeholder process on this issue.

**Conclusion**

CTA appreciates this opportunity to engage as part of Maine’s stakeholder process for battery management plan, and we look forward to next steps in the process.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [kreilly@cta.tech](mailto:kreilly@cta.tech).

Sincerely,



Katie Reilly  
VP, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability  
Consumer Technology Association

Katie Reilly  
Consumer Technology Association  
LD 474

Please see attached file for written testimony.