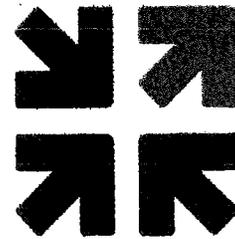


M U N I C I P A L
WasteHub



formerly Municipal Review Committee (MRC)

February 23, 2026

Municipal WasteHub

Testimony in Support of LD 474

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Joint Standing Committee of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), my name is Michael Carroll, and I am the Executive Director of Municipal WasteHub, formerly known as the Municipal Review Committee (MRC). Municipal WasteHub is a non-profit organization managing waste disposal for 115 towns and cities across Maine. I am submitting written testimony in support of LD 474, *An Act to Establish a Stewardship Program for Primary and Rechargeable Batteries*.

This bill addresses a critical safety issue affecting our 115 WasteHub member municipalities across Maine. Problematic batteries pose a serious hazard in the municipal solid waste stream. Whether during collection or processing, these batteries can be cracked or crushed, which can trigger fires that burn for hours or even days — creating significant health and safety risks for waste workers, community residents, and our first responders.

As this bill moves forward, I respectfully offer the following considerations for the committee:

Collection Safety and Procedures. As collection volumes increase, there is a real risk that batteries will be tossed loosely into bins rather than handled with care. These products are carefully packaged when sold, and similar care should be required at collection. The committee may wish to consider requiring specialized collection containers, standardized handling procedures, and designated storage areas similar to those used for universal waste. There will likely be meaningful upfront costs to accommodate safe collection infrastructure.

Phased Reporting Requirements. Annual reporting requirements may be ambitious in the early stages of implementation. A tiered approach that scales over time — as collection patterns and material volumes become better understood — may be more practical and effective.

Third-Party Seller Coverage. I want to flag a potential gap in the bill's language, if I understood it correctly. The bill addresses producers participating in a battery stewardship program, but it is unclear whether coverage extends to products brought into the State by third-party sellers such as vendors at fairs, concerts, and festivals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 474. Municipal WasteHub looks forward to working with the committee as this important legislation moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Carroll
Executive Director
Municipal WasteHub