



Krista Friesen
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Resource Recovery Policy Branch
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Sent via e-mail: Krista.Friesen@ontario.ca

Dear Ms. Friesen,

Re: EBR Registry Number 012-5832
Draft Battery Regulation

The Canadian Association of Recycling Industries (CARI) is an industry association made up of over 200 member companies in the recycling sector. Our members are engaged in the recycling of all commodities, and range from small family scrap yards to massive capital-intensive processing plants. CARI is a national association, but the majority of our member companies are located in Ontario. As the voice of the Canadian recycling industry, CARI is pleased to submit the following comments on the Draft Battery Regulation.

CARI supports the fundamental goals of creating a competitive circular economy by improving environmental outcomes; ensuring economic growth; and ensuring consistency, reducing costs and burden while promoting innovation. However, we feel the Draft Battery Regulation must take into account existing highly successful market-based circular economy programs. CARI believes small and large lead batteries already meet all of these goals, and should be exempt from the Draft Battery Regulation. Regulating these materials will not increase diversion, but could create a negative impact on the existing system.

IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

According to the Association of Battery Recyclers¹, 99.3% of all lead batteries in North America are recycled. The Canadian Battery Association lists the recycling rate of lead batteries in Ontario at 99.97%. Put simply: *lead batteries have the highest recycle rate of any consumer product*. The lead, plastics, and acids are all recovered and recycled from these products, and new automotive lead batteries contain over 80% recycled content. A spent lead battery recovered in Ontario can be

¹ <https://www.associationofbatteryrecyclers.com/national-recycling-rate-study/>



recycled into a new lead battery and back on shelves within 60 business days. These valuable resources are not being sent to landfill. They are an outstanding example of sustainable product design.

ENSURING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Recycling is a competitive, commodity-driven, international industry. The North American recycling industry is heavily integrated, and Ontario is a net importer of spent lead batteries from the U.S. Battery manufacturers have created a stable, consistent demand for lead that drives a competitive global recycling market for lead batteries. Spent lead batteries are a valuable commodity because battery manufacturers have chosen to produce batteries with recycled content. This market-driven system supports Ontario businesses at no additional cost to taxpayers.

ENSURING CONSISTENCY, REDUCING COSTS AND BURDEN WHILE PROMOTING INNOVATION

Recovery and recycling volumes for spent batteries are currently collected by the Canadian Battery Association. Movement of new and spent lead batteries is tracked under Transport Canada's Transportation of Dangerous Goods Program, interprovincial shipments are regulated by the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, and international shipments are further controlled by the Basel Convention and OECD's *Control of Transboundary Movement of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations*. The proposed additional recording, reporting, and registration requirements for haulers and processors of spent lead batteries will create an unnecessary and costly burden on these businesses.

CONCLUSION

The battery manufacturing and recycling industries have already formed an innovative and highly effective market-driven circular economy for lead batteries. As such, **CARI proposes amending the Draft Battery Regulations to exclude small and large lead batteries**. Doing so will prevent unnecessary administrative burdens to producers and recyclers, and will prevent the manufacturers from passing the unnecessary costs of managing this program on to consumers.

We appreciate your taking the time to address our concerns and look forward to working with you to achieve the goal of a waste-free Ontario.

Tracy Shaw
President and CEO