



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 29, 2021

The Honorable Josh Newman
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 289 (Newman)—Recycling: Batteries and Battery-Embedded Products

Dear Senator Newman,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support SB 289, which would implement a statewide battery collection system. The system would prevent expended batteries from harming the environment and jeopardizing the safety of waste streams.

Long Beach Recycles, the City's waste reduction program, aims to reduce the improper disposal of waste. The program offers ways to dispose of hazardous household waste items and provides education campaigns and interactive workshops for residents and businesses to help keep Long Beach clean. Despite best efforts, litter and debris continue to obstruct public rights-of-way and have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. To alleviate abandoned debris, the City's Clean Team removes and abates dumped items, so less waste ends up in waterways and neighborhoods. In just one week of 2021, the Clean Team collected 66 tons of illegally dumped items, plus 207 abandoned mattresses. One type of waste the City does not have a system to safely discard are lithium-ion batteries, which SB 289's proposed system would address.

The City supports legislation that promotes environmentally responsible approaches to consumer goods, including requiring product take-back and recycling. SB 289 would protect waste management infrastructure, workers, and consumers from improper battery disposal hazards by establishing a recycling program for batteries and products containing batteries. Given these reasons, the City supports SB 289.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District