



Working with Communities to Protect Their Land, Air, and Water

April 8, 2025

GBRW testimony on AB493

Good afternoon, I am John Hadder, representing Great Basin Resource Watch. GBRW does support the need for regulations regarding recycling and the concept of AB493. We do see significant deficiencies in the bill text, so GBRW is in opposition of the bill as currently drafted. I appreciate the time that Assemblyman Watts has taken to discuss the bill with GBRW and discussions with bill drafters.

GBRW has sent recommended amendments to the bill to Assemblyman Watts and Western Resource Advocates.

At the top of the list is that the bill does not close the door to dirty recycling. There is no definition for recycling or smelting, and "specialized battery recyclers" could use smelting so long as it is not the primary method of recycling. Smelting typically involves a high temperature thermal process with the release of toxins, but this is unknown without a definition. To close the door, battery recycling should not include combustion, incineration, smelting, energy production, fuel production (except for anaerobic digestion of source separated organic materials), or other forms of disposal.

There is also no section addressing battery safety and contain the following:

1. **Battery Fires** Establish conditions for safe storage, handling and emergency responder training and clean up protocols.
2. **Worker awareness and training.** Safety trainings on battery handling hazards and recycling hazards that are developed by third party specialists and regulatory agencies such as OSHA in conjunction with battery handlers and Specialized Battery Recyclers.

GBRW also calls for a very robust rulemaking process. Nevada law provides for at least one public workshop, and due the lack of detail in AB493 the rulemaking agency needs to facilitate multiple meetings at different times and locations to ensure diverse public participation.

The bill should also require robust reporting requirements for Specialized Battery Recyclers as: 1) Recovery Rates for all battery constituent materials regardless of the battery chemistry or technology, 2) Tonnage of Material Landfilled/sent for landfill disposal by Specialized Recyclers, 3) Recycled Feedstock End Use Market - Specialized Recyclers should identify the quantity of materials sent for end use markets, 4) Worker injury protections - Specialized Recyclers should

provide a copy of its OSHA 300 logs, 5) Worker Training - Specialized Recyclers should provide a summary of its training program for employees in the safe handling of batteries.

I have provided the complete list of amendments to the committee and bill drafters, and I hope this bill can be amended to strengthen protections for workers, communities and the environment. Thank you for your time and attention of these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hadder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "J" and a stylized "H".

John Hadder

Executive Director, Great Basin Resource Watch.