



July 16, 2026

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 615 (Allen): Vehicle traction batteries – **Oppose.**

Dear Speaker Rivas:

The undersigned organizations respectfully continue to oppose SB 615 (Allen). In the prior version of the bill, we expressed significant concerns about this bill to the author. In particular, we remain deeply troubled that SB 615 fails to protect front-line communities and continues to expose them to threats during the process of lithium-ion battery (LIB) materials recovery. We cannot support an effort that endangers our communities and those of front-line allies around the state.

As explained previously, currently spent LIBs are hazardous waste. This bill, however, effectively changes that. The bill explicitly defines a facility that “extracts and separates materials” from LIBs as a “battery recycler,” and removes responsibility for oversight of these facilities from the Department of Toxic Substances Control and instead places it in the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.

This is deeply problematic because it ignores the fact that hazardous materials are hazardous and these materials can and *do* cause grave harm to public health and the environment—this does not change simply because the hazardous materials are being “recycled.”

While CalRecycle has expertise in overseeing collection of hazardous waste and encouraging recycling, it has no expertise in permitting hazardous waste facilities such as LIB “recyclers” or ensuring the safe operation of those facilities. If facilities that extract and separate hazardous materials from LIBs are built in California, we must make sure that hazardous waste handling activity is covered by the full permitting requirements found in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and full environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This bill requires compliance with “existing” environmental laws—but we are in a time of unrepresented rollback of environmental protection at both the state and federal level this bill’s failure to ensure that current protections remain in place *in the future* exposes the people of California to extraordinary risks to our health, our environment, and our budget.

It is critical that we learn from our past mistakes with Exide, Schnitzer Steel, and other “recycling” facilities. We must close the door to future environmental tragedies like these by requiring LIB “recyclers” to comply our State’s strongest permitting and enforcement laws.

For the reasons outlined above and in our previous letters, we oppose SB 615 and respectfully request your “no” vote on this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact Angela Johnson Meszaros, ameszaros@earthjustice.org, regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Linda Dallin
Member
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

Jacob Sandoval
CA State Director
California League of United Latin American Citizens

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Coordinator
Clean Air Coalition of North Whittier and Avocado Heights

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Janice Schroeder
Core Member
**West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air
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Veronica Eady
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West Oakland Indicators Project