

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**FRANK M. ABART**  
Director



**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS  
SOLID WASTE DIVISION**  
CIVIC CENTER ANNEX  
322 N. Commercial St. Suite 210  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Phone: (360) 676-7695  
Fax: (360) 738-4561

March 15, 2013

Senator Doug Ericksen  
PO Box 40442  
Olympia, WA 98504-0442  
[doug.ericksen@leg.wa.gov](mailto:doug.ericksen@leg.wa.gov)

Dear Senator Ericksen,

I am writing you today in strong support of HB 1364 – the Washington Small Rechargeable Battery Stewardship Act – which the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications, on which you sit, will hear on Wednesday, March 20th.

Whatcom County collects hundreds of pounds of potentially toxic rechargeable batteries a year from its citizens. The program is free to all households of Whatcom County and is paid out of a Coordinated Prevention Grant from Department of Ecology, with matching funds coming from the taxpayers.

The bill before your Committee ensures that all battery manufacturers contribute to the effort to divert batteries from landfills and save counties the expense of paying for recycling services. While the cost to the manufacturer can be passed onto consumers in very small amounts, the savings in time, collection, disposal, and recycling is significant to our budget in such a tight economy. We need to break out dependency on State grant funds, and this bill is an excellent method of defraying the costs for small government entities.

We urge your support of this bill. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Bailey".

Debbie Bailey, Coordinator  
Whatcom County Solid Waste