Sequim Electronics

In (i) of the Education and Outreach-Plan Contents, you say: "(i) Sample materials to make retailers aware of their obligation to sell only covered batteries and battery-containing products of producers participating in an approved plan;"

Our concern is the width and breadth of products that now contain rechargeable batteries or alkaline batteries in package. Flashlights, RC cars, drones, night lights, power banks, emergency radios, handheld consoles, LED apparel, hand warmers, weather stations--these are just a small sample of the kinds of products that we see that have starter batteries in-package or use rechargeable batteries. Some are user replaceable and some are not. This number is growing every year. This could affect up to 70% of our inventory, at a conservative estimate. Many of our vendors are small companies scattered across the US and the world. How will we be able to ensure compliancy without losing a large swath of our suppliers? If we lose ours, will organizations like Amazon also be forced to go through that same trimming to any and all Washington state buyers? Will this be applied to multi-state businesses? If not applied carefully then places like Amazon can just ship the item from Nevada (or elsewhere) and bypass the regulation. If you force small businesses to lose potentially much of their supply line, but not Amazon or Walmart, then all you will accomplish is moving yet more shoppers to the online giants and hurting smaller brick and mortar stores throughout the state.

We strongly want there to be a battery recycling program here, and are eager to assist. We just want to make sure that the big companies are not able to circumvent the work that smaller companies like ourselves will go through to help protect our environment. Historically that has always been an issue across multiple areas so we ask that you please make sure that doesn't happen here, as the harm caused to the already struggling small business could be substantial. Thank you for your hard work on this process.