The following is an LTE from Darrell Smith in response to the *Wall Street Journal* article *Why E-Bikes, EVs and Laptops Are Catching Fire*, published on July 29, 2023.

Send to - readersfeedback@wsj.com

Subject – Why E-Bikes, EVs and Laptops Are Catching Fire – July 29, 2023

To the Editor,

I commend the timely and insightful article by Josh Ulick, Adrienne Tong, and Danny Dougherty on the alarming fire hazards posed by lithium-ion batteries ([Why E-Bikes, EVs and Laptops Are Catching Fire](https://www.wsj.com/articles/lithium-ion-batteries-fire-explained-1e5cbe9c), July 29). The authors have astutely shed light on the risks surrounding the usage of these batteries.

However, the issue of safe disposal of lithium batteries also needs attention. As society's reliance on these power sources grows, the hazards posed by improper disposal of these batteries significantly increase. Across the nation, fires are erupting in an alarmingly increasing frequency at waste management facilities causing injuries and property damage because of improperly discarded batteries. New York City has seen 131 fires caused by these batteries in 2023 alone, and San Francisco has seen over 200 lithium battery related fires since 2017.

This underlines the imperative need for proper disposal methods. It is not just the manufacturing flaws or the state of batteries while in use that is a concern, but the entire lifecycle, including the end phase. Currently, the best publicly available resources for consumers to safely dispose of these batteries are [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com), which offers guidance on how and where to recycle products, as well as [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org), which offers shipping options and community locations.

These are simply a short-term solution, and a long-term answer is necessary. Manufacturers, policy makers and lawmakers at the federal, state and local level must join hands to educate consumers on the proper disposal and recovery of these batteries, or we will continue to experience these increasingly devastating consequences.

The excellent reporting on battery safety should serve as a catalyst for a broader conversation that includes safe disposal practices. Addressing this aspect is vital to truly reducing the deadly fires resulting from lithium-ion batteries.

Jim Riley

Interim President and CEO

National Waste & Recycling Association

1550 Crystal Drive

Suite 804

Arlington, VA 22202

[jriley@wasterecycling.org](mailto:jriley@wasterecycling.org)

202-244-4700