

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Jeanne Roy, 6805 SW 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97219
Date: February 12, 2021
Subject: HB 2698, Right to Repair

As an environmental educator for the past 50 some years, I strongly support HB 2698. It requires original equipment manufacturer to make available to owner of originated equipment or independent repair provider on fair and reasonable terms any part, tool, documentation or other device or implement that original equipment manufacturer makes available to authorized repair provider for purpose of diagnosing, maintaining or repairing originated equipment.

Over the years I have watched manufacturers produce electronic equipment that must be thrown away because of planned obsolescent or inability to repair. The problem is getting worse and worse. Companies are intentionally making their products difficult or impossible to repair. For example, schematics of how to repair a smart phone are not available; parts cannot be obtained.

As a result, E-waste is the fastest growing component of our solid waste stream. Thousands of phones are thrown away by Oregonians every day. Even a worse problem is the impact of mining and manufacturing. A single mobile phone requires 295 pounds of raw material, including 75 pounds of ore. Mining the gold for the phone generates 220 pounds of waste. The precious metals then end up in the landfill.

It is time to change this wasteful paradigm. Our society must be allowed to extend the life of products we use. I urge you to pass HB 2698.