



PO BOX 1264

Tualatin, OR 97062

503-233-3056

[www.oregonrecyclers.org](http://www.oregonrecyclers.org)

February 17, 2021

House Committee on Business and Labor  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2698 - Support

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a 501(c)6 committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity and community partnerships are also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas. Our principles around equity and the environment are why AOR believes HB 2698 will be one of the most important bills in the 2021 legislative session.

HB 2698 would secure Oregonian's right to repair the expensive electronic devices they purchased and own. Smartphones, tablets, laptops, PCs, "smart" refrigerators and other appliances have become increasingly difficult for consumers to diagnose and repair. These products can have a very short life span when affordable repair options are not available. Extending the life of these products through repair will conserve precious natural resources and increase economic opportunities for small repair businesses.

The EPA estimated in 2009 that Americans threw away 141 million phones, approximately 350,000 per day, and that is likely an even greater number today. E-waste is not going away and in the midst of COVID, the problem is going to continue to grow. We are fortunate to have the Oregon E-cycles collection program that enables residents to recycle computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, mice and TVs but it does not include tablets or phones and it doesn't address repair. That is why strategies like Right to Repair are desperately needed in Oregon, the problem is complex and there is not a one-size-fit-all strategy that is going to address our e-waste problem.

While recycling, reuse and repair are all methods of reducing waste, reuse and repair result in the highest environmental and economic benefits. Repair and reuse maintain products in their original form, taking advantage of the embodied energy of the original product. This is in contrast to recycling, which typically involves destroying the product and converting it into primary materials used to make new products. Repair and reuse offer significantly greater potential for conserving resources and reducing pollution compared to recycling. Even though reuse is more beneficial, both reuse and recycling prevent

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the release of toxic and hazardous material by avoiding the mining and manufacturing needed to extract the rare earth materials used to create new electronic products.

AOR believes R2R is the type of policy we need to harness the environmental and economic value of reusing electronic products by making repair more convenient and accessible to everyone. For these reasons, the Association of Oregon Recyclers supports House Bill 2698 and urges your support.

Sincerely,

Kristin Leichner

Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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