



February 17, 2021

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of The Environmental Center in Bend, Oregon in support of House Bill 2698, the Right to Repair bill. Supporting repair reduces environmental damage by decreasing toxic electronic waste, increases access to affordable technology, and supports small businesses and the local economy. These are all important for our state.

In Central Oregon, we have fewer options for repair than other more populated parts of the state. Furthermore, Deschutes County is a long way from the major transportation corridors and commercial centers of our state, which makes it costly to get materials to market. Although we have access to Oregon e-cycles collection centers, there isn't a good infrastructure in place to collect other electronics like cell phones of which Oregonians dispose of 4800 every day. We imagine more rural communities, further from markets, have even more transportation challenges. By giving people the access to tools and manuals needed to fix their own things, we can prolong the life of those phones, keep them out of the landfills or lessen the need to transport them to markets that are far away. E-waste, which contains heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, accounts for 2% of the waste stream but 70% of it's toxicity. We need to keep it out of our landfills.

At The Environmental Center, we work hard to educate people on how to reduce their impact on the environment, and part of that education is how to and where to repair their broken things. We generally (except for pandemic years) offer 5-6 repair cafes per year where we have a group of volunteer fixers who help people fix their broken things. When people watch their things being fixed, they often leave excited about trying to fix their own things in the future. However, they are often unable to even try because they don't have the correct manuals and tools to do the fixing. By enabling people to fix their stuff, including electronics, we can prolong the life of that stuff and prevent it from entering the landfills and thereby lessening our impacts on the environment. We can also empower individuals to take action to prevent their own waste.

The Right to Repair will address equity issues by providing access to more affordable technology. The bill will give schools and other institutions the information they need to maintain equipment, and will empower the refurbished computer market, saving taxpayer dollars and improving digital access for Oregon families. Repair can save Oregon households about \$330 per year, leaving more

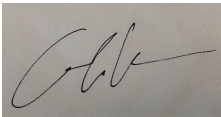
money in consumer pockets. And with stronger repair rights, this money spent on repair will circulate in the local economy.

Passing this right to repair legislation will:

- Reduce environmental impacts by keeping electronics in the loop longer, thereby decreasing the need for using virgin materials and the yearly toll electronics take on our landfills;
- Help the local economy by giving fixer shops access to the tools and manuals they need to perform repairs; and
- Address equity issues by giving schools, institutions, and households the opportunity to save money by keeping their electronics longer

We urge you to enable Oregonians to continue to act as the proactive and enthusiastic advocates for our environment and each other that we are by passing this bill. Please vote yes on HB 2698.

Thank you for your time,



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