



PO BOX 1264

Tualatin, OR 97062  
503-233-3056  
[www.oregonrecyclers.org](http://www.oregonrecyclers.org)

February 9, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 542: Right to Repair - Support

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, 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 SB 542 is a key reuse and recycling bill in the 2023 legislative session.

HB SB 542 would secure Oregonian's right to repair the expensive electronic devices they purchased and own. Consumer electronics 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. Right to repair could also give schools and other institutions and businesses the information they need to maintain equipment saving taxpayer dollars. Extending the life of these products through repair will also make electronics more accessible, conserve precious natural resources, and increase economic opportunities for small repair businesses.

E-waste is not going away, and since COVID, the problem has grown. 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 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-fits-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 extend the life 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 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.

---

#### 2022-2023 AOR BOARD

**Chair:** Joel Schoening, Oregon Environmental Council | **Past Chair:** Kristin Leichner, Pride Disposal | **Vice Chair:** Tom Egleston, Washington County | **Secretary:** Elizabeth Cole, City of Beaverton | **Treasurer:** Laura Leebrick, Rogue Disposal | **Conference Chair:** Danielle Womble, Waste Connections | **Legislative Chair:** Rosalynn Greene, Metro | **Members-at-Large:** | Maya Buelow, Lane County | Eric Chambers, ORBC | Jeff Murray, EFI Recycling |



PO BOX 1264

Tualatin, OR 97062

503-233-3056

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

AOR believes SB 542 (Right to Repair) 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 Senate Bill 542 and urges your support.

Sincerely,

Joel Schoening

Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

---

#### 2022-2023 AOR BOARD

**Chair:** Joel Schoening, Oregon Environmental Council | **Past Chair:** Kristin Leichner, Pride Disposal | **Vice Chair:** Tom Egleston, Washington County | **Secretary:** Elizabeth Cole, City of Beaverton | **Treasurer:** Laura Leebrick, Rogue Disposal | **Conference Chair:** Danielle Womble, Waste Connections | **Legislative Chair:** Rosalynn Greene, Metro | **Members-at-Large:** | Maya Buelow, Lane County | Eric Chambers, ORBC | Jeff Murray, EFI Recycling |