

February 9, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Multnomah County Support for SB 0542

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee:

Electronic devices like smartphones and computers are essential to daily life. They enable Oregonians to work, learn, receive medical care, read the news, and stay connected to loved ones. We rely on these expensive devices to work. If they break, repairing them should be possible, at a reasonable cost.

Yet electronic waste is considered the fastest-growing waste stream in the world. It is difficult and expensive for consumers to repair a device they own. Too often, consumers are faced with buying yet another new device because repair is out of reach.

For that reason, Multnomah County supports SB 0542. This bill empowers Oregon consumers and small businesses with repair essentials, thereby extending the useful life of consumer electronic devices. This bill looks out for Oregon consumers, enabling them to save money and make their own choices when seeking repairs. It supports digital equity, by reducing the complexity of keeping affordable refurbished devices in the marketplace, making technology accessible to all Oregonians. It's good for Oregon's local economy, supporting our many small repair businesses. Finally, this bill is good for the environment, by decreasing the rate of e-waste creation through longer gadget lifespans and reducing toxic pollution associated with producing new consumer electronics.

Please support SB 0542. I would be happy to be a resource if you have further questions.

Sincerely,
Sara Ali
Digital Access Coordinator
Department of County Assets
Multnomah County