

**Testimony Submitted by
Chris Coughlin, Policy Director
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

February 9, 2023

Regarding: Support for SB 542
Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Chris Coughlin, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of SB 542.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) advances a justice movement to ensure Oregonians have the freedom to thrive and equitably share in our abundance of resources. For too long, flawed systems and economic policies that favor profits over people have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing the greatest harm. Strengthened through responsive and reciprocal community relationships, OCJ organizes, advocates, and litigates to put people first. We envision an inclusive future where financial and business transactions can be relied upon as safe and where all Oregonians know and have recourse to exercise their consumer rights.

Consumers should be able to economically and safely make repairs to items they own, either by themselves or by having options about where to take their items for repair.

SB 542 will require manufacturers to make available replacement parts, software, physical tools, and any documentation or schematics needed for repair. This includes the materials they make available to their authorized repair providers or that they use to do repairs on their products. The bill covers common household and consumer products, such as phones, computers, and appliances. In order for an item to be covered by SB 542, it must have "digital electronics that are embedded within or attached to the product." Essentially, it has to have a computer chip.

Companies are currently using their power in the marketplace to make things harder to repair, which ends up costing Oregonians money. Being able to fix phones, computers, and appliances rather than buying new ones will save the average Oregon household \$330 per year.¹

We urge your support of SB 542 to give consumers the right to repair.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to Oregon's communities.

¹ <https://pirg.org/resources/repair-saves-families-big/>