

Submitter: Mariah Lynch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB542

It is heartening to see the OR Legislature consider Right to Repair regulations. It is a vetted, common sense effort that dozens of other state legislators have introduced this year and the EU has already begun to implement—signaling it is popular and feasible. The main benefits from a user point of view are clear—but even moreso when economic downturns and growing income disparity are taken into consideration. When more products are fixable, citizens can be more resilient to economic distress, lay-offs, and rising costs of housing, energy, and goods. These risks are top-of-mind for most Oregonians these days.

The tertiary and "trickle down" benefits of implementing Right to Repair are just as exciting. For instance:

- Fix-It Fairs are already gaining popularity and gaining repair skills has become attractive hobby. When repairable products are the norm, one can imagine Repair Clubs in schools, new jobs and storefronts, and a richer social fabric from the cross-pollination of repair specialists and teacher/apprentice relationships.
- Companies designing for repair might create more innovative products, displacing efforts previously spent on servicing old products to new R&D.

Further, as someone who works in the crossroads of robotics and automotive manufacturing, many companies (big and small) are already in value alignment with right to repair—the legislation simply helps accelerate goals. Trust that engineers are craving the comeback of mechanical, repairable design, but the higher-ups need to make the call.