

Tech Care Association



February 13, 2023

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of SB542

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of our more than 1,400 members, and the thousands of small business repair people that keep our technology working every day, our association would like to offer its support of SB542. A bill also know as the right to repair consumer electronics, or as our members like to think of it: the right to make an honest living!

The tech repair industry offers opportunity to thousands of entrepreneurs each year to launch, own, and operate their own community based small business. These modern repair people provide critical services to their communities that, in many cases, keep their customers connected to the world. It never cease to amaze me that these creative hardworking people have built a more than \$20 billion industry with all of the resistance they encounter from big tech companies and their highly paid lobbyists.

Our association has been trying to work with these big tech companies over the last two years to provide better opportunities for our members. We have found that, despite their words, they are unwilling to work with us even on a basic level. Our conversations with Apple and Samsung have netted zero results, other than being told that it is either their way or no way.

Efforts to hold subtenant conversations with representatives at the Consumer Tech Association (CTA) and the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA), the leading voices that are speaking out against this legislation, have simply been ignored. This despite agreeing early last year to their demands that we not engage in right to repair lobbying for one year in order to move talks forward. Their claims that they have reached out in “good faith” with industry leaders are simply not true. The fact is that you can’t work with people who don’t see you as their equals.

In closing, I would like to say that we all need to do more to support small business owners everywhere, including the great state of Oregon. Passing this legislation is the least we can do to help them survive against big tech companies, who can certainly fend for themselves.

Please pass SB542 and give small businesspeople a fighting chance!

Sincerely,

Rob Link

Founder & CEO of the Tech Care Association

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