



## **Testimony in Support of SB 1596 – The Right to Repair**

**February 7, 2024**

Dear Chair Sollman and members of the Senate Committee On Energy and Environment,

On behalf of our thousands of members and the communities we serve across Oregon, Beyond Toxics strongly encourage the Committee to support SB 1596, The Right to Repair bill. This legislative proposal is a critical step forward to reducing Oregon’s electronic waste.

Passing this balanced law will enable technology companies to provide access to parts that allow small businesses to repair electronics like smartphones and computers. Fixing home technology devices and appliances instead of buying new ones could save the average Oregon household \$382 per year. For example, it is estimated that the Right to Repair bill will help Oregonians prevent an estimated 4,800 cell phones from going into a landfill every day.

More than savings in dollars, and from a toxics reduction perspective, e-waste is the fastest-growing waste stream in the world. E-waste takes up space in Oregon’s landfills (and perhaps is burned in incinerators). Once discarded, the components of E-waste can contribute to the presence of heavy metals in groundwater and landfill leachate.

Modern society is overly focused on “throw-away” items. We urge legislators to recognize that passing a Right to Repair policy can send a positive message to consumers that we can be active participants in programs that reduce, recycle and reuse. Please give Oregonians the opportunity to extend the life of their electronic gadgets and appliances by supporting and promoting options for individuals and small repair businesses to fix and extend the life of electronic items.

Ultimately, SB 1596 will protect the Oregon’s environment by preventing waste, reducing the need to mine precious natural resources, expanding the life of Oregon’s landfills and keeping metals and plastics out of Oregon’s rivers and lands.

We urge the passage of SB 1596 in the 2024 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director  
Beyond Toxics