Paul Roberts

Founder

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The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

My name is Paul Roberts and I am the founder of SecuRepairs.org. I am writing to you to express my **support for Senate Bill 1596,** which requires fair access to parts, tools, service information and repair software. I believe this legislation is a common-sense step to cut consumer costs and decrease harmful electronic waste. As a recognized expert in information security, I also wish to assure you that the provisions of this bill will not put Oregonians at greater risk of cyber attack.

There is no cyber risk in repair

By definition, the information covered by right to repair laws like SB 1596 is not sensitive or protected, as evidenced by the fact that manufacturers distribute such information widely to hundreds, thousands or tens of thousands of repair professionals working on behalf of their authorized providers. That includes everything from staff working at Apple's Genius Bar or the Geek Squad at Best Buy to minimum wage workers at centralized "authorized repair facilities" -which are often located out of state. This wide and indiscriminate distribution of repair information, tools and parts within authorized repair networks disproves the notion, promoted by manufacturers, that it is highly sensitive or that it is closely protected intellectual property.

Hacked via schematics? Not a thing.

Also: cybersecurity experts have yet to find any evidence that the types of information covered by right to repair laws act as a portal to cyber attacks. The vast majority of attacks on Internet connected devices - from broadband routers to home appliances and automobiles - exploit weak device configurations or vulnerabilities in embedded software produced and managed by the manufacturer. The information covered by right to repair laws like SB 1596 - schematic diagrams, service manuals, diagnostic software and replacement parts - are not sought after by cyber criminals and do not play a role in the epidemic of cyber attacks and compromises that plagues Oregon families, businesses and governments.

An epidemic of hackable stuff

These security weaknesses are epidemic. [A study of the security of IoT devices by Phosphorus Labs](), a cybersecurity company, found that 68% of Internet of Things devices contained high-risk or critical software vulnerabilities.

Hacks of connected devices take place without any access to repair materials. Nor is there any evidence that providing access to repair software will open doors to new attacks. As an example: a diagnostic routine that identifies a failed component or reveals the operating temperature of a device doesn't provide access to the kinds of sensitive data that hackers are interested in.

A Right to Repair is key to a secure Internet of Things

As the Internet of Things ages and manufacturers gradually step away from their responsibility to support and maintain deployed products, new laws such as Senate Bill 1596 will foster a market based response: a diverse ecosystem of small, aftermarket service providers that step into the shoes of OEMs: supplying needed software updates and security patches, servicing and repairing deployed devices and so on.
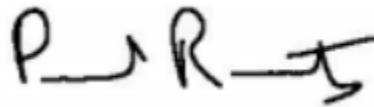
Passage of this law will foster a range of business and employment opportunities for Oregon residents and small businesses, fostering growth, investment and innovation up and down the economic ladder.

Repair: Pro-Consumer, Pro-Competition, Pro-Environment

To sum up: right to repair legislation like Oregon Senate Bill 1596 will greatly improve the quality of life for Oregon's consumers, families, and communities, while fostering the growth of small businesses and reducing e-waste throughout the state. On behalf of our more than 350 members,

I urge this committee to support the passage of this important right to repair legislation and would be happy to make our cybersecurity experts available to brief Committee members on the topic of cyber security and repair.

Sincerely,

Paul Roberts, Founder SecureRepairs.org