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February 26, 2024

House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1596-A: Right to Repair - Support

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Sosa, Elmer and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a 501(c)6 committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity and community partnerships are centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit all Oregonians, including communities in rural areas and communities of color. This is why AOR believes SB 1596-A is a key bill in the 2024 legislative session.

SB 1596-A would secure Oregonian's right to repair the expensive electronic devices they purchased. Consumer electronics have become increasingly difficult to diagnose and repair, and without affordable repair options can have a very short life span. Extending the life of these products through repair will make electronics more accessible to all Oregonians, conserve precious natural resources, and increase economic opportunities for small Oregon grown repair businesses.

Electronic waste is not going away, our members continue to see various electronic products introduce more toxicity to our waste streams and start fires in recycling centers or collection vehicles damaging equipment and harming our workforce. The challenges associated with managing this waste only continues to grow. We are fortunate to have the Oregon E-cycles collection program that makes it easier for Oregonians to recycle electronics. However, these programs do not address repair – a higher and better use. That is why strategies like Right to Repair are needed in Oregon, the problem is complex and no one strategy is going to address it.

Reuse and repair also result in the higher environmental and economic benefits. Repair and reuse extend the life of original products. This contrasts with recycling, which typically involves destroying a product and converting it into primary materials used to make new products. Repair and reuse offer significantly greater potential for conserving resources and reducing pollution when compared to recycling.

AOR believes SB 1596-A is the type of policy we need to harness the economic and environmental value of reusing electronic products by making repair more convenient and accessible to all Oregonians. For these reasons, the Association of Oregon Recyclers is proud to support Senate Bill 1596-A and urges your support.

Sincerely,

Joel Schoening, Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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