



February 26, 2024

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1596

Dear legislators,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 1596. The Right to Repair is critical to protecting precious natural resources, mitigating climate change pollution and preventing waste.

We generate way too much waste, and companies use their power in the marketplace to make things harder to repair. Preventing repair reinforces the linear economic cycle of buying, using and discarding at the fastest possible speed, eating up precious natural resources on the front end and creating a mountain of preventable waste at the back end, all the while exacerbating climate change. The environmental impact of having electronic products with a short life is significant.

For example, Americans purchase [161 million new smartphones each year](#), and our cell phone habit takes 23.7 million tons of raw material to satisfy. That's like consuming an Empire State Building equivalent in material every six days. On average, [Americans use their phones for 24.7 months](#) before discarding them. Every day in the United States 416,000 cell phones are discarded, adding to our [6.9 million tons of e-waste](#) per year.

[Studies show](#) that if we held onto our phones for one more year on average, the climate emissions reductions would be equivalent to taking 636,000 cars off the road. But in order to extend the life of these products, individuals and small businesses need access to the tools and resources to fix them, which they often don't have.

By giving Oregonians the Right to Repair, Senate Bill 1596 would help extend the life of electronics and as a result will help to conserve precious resources, mitigate climate pollution and prevent waste, and we urge its swift passage.

Sincerely,

Thomas Egleston
Legislative Chair
Association of Oregon Recyclers

Lisa Arkin
Executive Director
Beyond Toxics

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director
Environment Oregon

Rebecca Gladstone
Co-President
League of Women Voters of Oregon

Caitlin Hart
Senior Manager, Government Relations
Ocean Conservancy

Jamie Pang
Senior Environmental Health Program Director
Oregon Environmental Council

Julia DeGraw
Coalition Director
OLCV/Oregon Conservation Network

Charlie Fisher
State Director
OSPIRG

Addie Cooper
State Board Chair
OSPIRG Students

Joe Liebezeit
Assistant Dir. of Statewide Conservation
Bird Alliance of Oregon

Damon Motz-Storey
Oregon Chapter Director
Sierra Club

Charlie Plybon
Oregon Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Neil Baunsgard
Climate Policy Manager
The Environmental Center

Brittney Wendell
Board President
Waste-Free Advocates

Bob Sallinger
Conservation Director
Willamette Riverkeeper