



February 26, 2024

Representative Paul Holvey
Chair, House Committee on Business and Labor

Re: SB 1596 (Support)

Chair Holvey and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation and our extensive network of chapters, members and volunteers in Oregon, we enthusiastically support SB 1596, a bill to require manufacturing companies to make the diagnostic tools, information, replacement parts and tools available to consumers and third party repair shops, so Oregonians can more easily and affordably fix our stuff. The bill takes an important step in line with our organizational climate and pollution initiatives in reducing e-waste, cutting pollution in our landfills and reducing the climate impacts from manufacturing - all which have impacts downstream on our ocean. Both in sourcing rare earth metals and plastic production in smartphones and the eventual disposal of these products, our ocean environment is negatively impacted. Oregon's Right to Repair Act would increase the lifespan of the smartphones and electronics. With increased repair, these materials will remain in use instead of filling up landfills, be more useful for recyclers, and reduce the burden of new source material, manufacturing, and transportation. Further, the bill levels the playing field for small businesses, increasing labor opportunities for Oregonians in repair and maintenance and can help close the digital divide by providing access for schools and low-income institutions to maintain equipment and electronics.

Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit, grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves and beaches for all people. Our chapter network in Oregon consists of 5 volunteer-based chapters along the Oregon coast and one in Portland. We strongly support SB 1596 and encourage your yes vote!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Plybon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Charlie Plybon
Oregon Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation
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