



Monday, February 26th, 2024

Representative Paul Holvey

Chair, House Committee on Business and Labor

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St NE

Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 1596A – Right to Repair

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Sosa, Vice-Chair Elmer, and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

I am writing today in full support of SB 1596A, a bill that would restore the ability of individuals to fix their electronic devices and reduce electronic waste, pollution, and support local businesses.

We live in an incredibly technology-centered world where access to phones, computers and appliances are essential to our day-to-day lives.

As a County Commissioner, improving the lives of our residents is a high priority for me, but so is the collective impact that electronic waste has on our communities today and future generations.

Oregonians dispose of over 4,000 cell phones every day, in large part due to the difficulties and costs of repairing a device. Electronic waste is the fastest growing type of waste stream in the world, and it adds toxic heavy metals like lead, mercury, and cadmium into our landfills.

Board of County Commissioners

155 North First Avenue, Suite 300, MS 22, Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072

phone: (503) 846-8681 • fax: (503) 846-4545

With more opportunities to repair devices, these materials will remain in use instead of filling up landfills, reducing the burden of new source material, manufacturing, and transportation of new devices. If every Oregonian is able to extend the life of their phone, it would reduce the environmental impact of these devices and reduce an individual's carbon footprint.

Restoring the ability for individuals to fix their electronic devices and appliances will also empower small businesses who do repairs and bolster the refurbishment market.

Families and businesses won't be the only ones to benefit from SB 1596A. Public institutions such as schools and libraries will also get the information they need to maintain equipment, saving taxpayer dollars and improving digital access for Oregon families.

I want to thank Senator Sollman for championing this issue of right to repair over the years and shepherding it through the Senate with a strong bipartisan vote last week. It is time for the legislature to act and help Oregonians continue to engage with each other efficiently and effectively in the 21st century and beyond.

Thank you for considering my testimony today. I strongly urge the committee's support of SB 1596A this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Treece". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pam Treece

Washington County Commissioner

District 2