

April 22, 2019

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Briggs-Ungerer Consulting,
LLC

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To: House Committee on Business and Labor
Re: HB 2688 – Right to Repair

Chair Barker and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a not-for-profit trade association focused on advancing waste prevention and recycling in Oregon. AOR's diverse membership includes more than 200 businesses, governments, nonprofits and individuals working together on the common goal of achieving a system of sustainable materials management in Oregon.

AOR supports HB 2688 to advance waste reduction and reuse in Oregon. HB 2688 would secure Oregonian's right to repair smartphones and other electronic digital equipment that they own. Smartphones, tablets, laptops, PCs, "smart" refrigerators and other appliances have become increasingly hard for consumers to repair due to proprietary software and ever-faster equipment upgrade cycles. These products have very short life spans when repair options are not available or affordable. Extending the life of these products through repair will conserve precious natural resources, including rare earth metals, and reduce the carbon emissions associated with manufacturing new products.

Individuals and independent repair and recycling shops in Oregon should have access to the information and parts needed to maintain and repair the electronic digital equipment. Extending the life of products supports their reuse and provides lower cost purchase options for consumers. HB 2688 also supports recycling when these products reach their end of life as the bill would ensure recyclers have access to information about product components that can pose dangers to workers and recycling facilities, such as mercury, and lithium-ion batteries.

HB 2688 is consistent with the State of Oregon's 2050 Vision for Materials Management and AOR's commitment to waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and thoughtful consumption. For these reasons, the Association of Oregon Recyclers supports House Bill 2688 and urges your support.

Sincerely,



Alison Briggs-Ungerer
Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers