

MAXINE E. DEXTER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 33



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Date: February 9, 2023

Subject: Support SB 542

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Dr. Maxine Dexter and I am honored to be the State Representative for House District 33, which includes NW & Downtown Portland, Linnton, and Cathedral Park. I am grateful for this opportunity today to testify in support of SB 542, which establishes Oregonian's Right to Repair.

SB 542 requires manufacturing companies to make tools, manuals, and replacement parts accessible to individuals and third parties. For too long, large companies have utilized market power to make products impossible to repair at home – for example, assembling products with uncommon screwheads and leaving out instruction manuals, forcing customers to navigate inaccessible, price-inflated services.

But the continued ramifications of these restrictions go far beyond customer convenience. Because Oregonians face hurdles to local, simplified repair and reuse programs, customers often opt to purchase entirely new devices. Such unnecessary expenses not only costs Oregonians upwards of \$500 million each year, but also compile into an average of 4800 disposed cell phones per day. Discarded devices produce large quantities of electronic waste, and when compounded by improper disposal, can expose our most vulnerable communities and environment to water-transmitted carcinogens and irreversible contamination.

Additionally, a right to repair would give schools and other institutions the information they need to maintain equipment in a post-pandemic digital age. This bill would empower the refurbished computer market, saving taxpayer dollars and improving digital access for Oregon families.

I urge the committee to pass SB 542 to place the power of accessibility, safety, and a right to repair into the hands of all Oregonians.

I am grateful for the many partners who will also share their testimony and to each of you for your attention and consideration today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maxine Dexter", written in a cursive style.

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.
House District 33 (NW & Downtown Portland, Linnton, & Cathedral Park)