

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB1596

To the esteemed members of the Senate Committee On Energy and Environment,

I write to you today as a staunch advocate for the principles of equality, fairness, and collective empowerment that underpin our vision for society. It is in this spirit that I wholeheartedly endorse SB 1596, a critical piece of legislation that promises to democratize access to the tools, parts, and information necessary for the repair of consumer electronic equipment.

For too long, the monopolistic practices of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have not only stifled competition but also undermined the rights of consumers and independent businesses. By restricting access to essential repair resources, these corporations have enforced a regime of planned obsolescence, compelling consumers to prematurely replace devices and contributing to the egregious waste of valuable resources and environmental degradation.

SB 1596 represents a bold step forward in our struggle against corporate dominance and for the promotion of a more equitable and sustainable model of consumption. By requiring OEMs to provide, on fair and reasonable terms, the same documentation, tools, parts, and devices they offer to authorized service providers, this bill would empower consumers and independent repair businesses alike. It would enable them to undertake repairs and maintenance, thereby extending the lifespan of consumer electronics, promoting sustainability, and fostering a culture of self-reliance and resilience against the monopolistic tendencies of large corporations.

Moreover, this legislation aligns perfectly with progressive values by leveling the playing field between giant corporations and the working class. It embodies the principle of collective ownership of knowledge and resources, ensuring that all members of society have equal access to the means to maintain and repair their possessions. This not only supports the local economy by bolstering small, independent repair shops but also challenges the capitalist paradigm of consumerism and disposability, encouraging a shift towards a more sustainable and circular economy.

In solidarity with the working people of Oregon and in opposition to the exploitative practices of multinational corporations, I urge you to pass SB 1596. Let us take a stand for consumer rights, environmental sustainability, and the principles of fairness, equality, and community empowerment. Together, we can forge a future where technology serves the many, not the few, and where our economic systems are built

on the foundation of sustainability and justice for all.

Sincerely,
Devon Lawson-McCourt