



Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Senator Janeen Sollman  
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am writing today in full support of SB 1596, 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.



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 1596. 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 Chair Sollman for championing this issue of right to repair over the years. It is time for the legislature to act and help Oregonians continue to engage with each other efficiently and effectively in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Treece". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Pam Treece**

Washington County Commissioner

District 2

**Board of County Commissioners**

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