



# Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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February 8, 2024

To: Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Sarah Wochele, Policy Associate, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)

Re: Support for SB 1596 - Right to Repair

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CUB is a membership-based 501(c)3 nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that represents the interests of utility consumers, including telecommunications customers, before legislative, administrative and judicial bodies. **We submit this testimony to ask for your support for SB 1596.**

CUB supports the passage of SB 1596 as it will help bridge Oregon's digital divide and increase telephone and internet access and affordability. Allowing Oregonians to fix their existing devices themselves or through a local certified third-party, as well as buy and sell in the local refurbished market, ensures that low-income people in Oregon can more affordably stay connected to necessary communication infrastructure.

We appreciate the conversations and considerations involved in developing the look-back periods for covered devices in this bill. We feel they honor the realities of Oregon consumers, especially low-income Oregonians, as well as those small businesses and organizations who offer repair and refurbishment services here in Oregon. Being able to fix these phones, computers, and appliances instead of buying new would save the average Oregon household \$382 per year. As CUB and other organizations work with utilities and the OPUC to address rising utility rates, it is essential that we do what we can to save Oregonian families money.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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