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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 33



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Date: February 8, 2024

Subject: Support SB 1596

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee,

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 1596, which establishes Oregonian's Right to Repair.

SB 1596 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.

The expansive impacts of these practices go far beyond customer inconvenience. Oregonians do not have affordable alternatives to have their devices serviced and repaired in large part due to the lack of availability of replacement parts. As a result, customers often opt to purchase entirely new devices. Such unnecessary purchases not only costs Oregonians upwards of \$500 million each year, but also lead to increased gas emissions, unnecessary raw material use and enormous waste including 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 1596 to place the power of accessibility, safety, and a right to repair into the hands of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.

House District 33 (Northwest and Downtown Portland, Linnton, and Cathedral Park)