



## League of Oregon Cities Testimony in Support of SB 1596

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

My name is Nichole Rutherford, the City Manager for Coos Bay. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 1596, on behalf of the League of Oregon Cities.

The proposed legislation which requires sharing, in fair terms for consumers and independent repair providers, the necessary information for maintenance and repair of electronic items. As a leader in a rural community, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges our residents face when their electronic devices break down. This legislation is crucial in addressing these challenges and ensuring that our community members have access to fair and affordable repair options.

In rural areas like ours, access to authorized service providers can be limited, leading residents to rely on independent repair providers or even attempt to fix their devices themselves. However, many manufacturers restrict access to essential repair information, tools, and parts, making it difficult for independent repair providers to effectively carry out repairs. This not only creates frustration for consumers but also hampers small businesses that provide repair services in our community.

By requiring original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to make necessary documentation, tools, parts, and other resources available to both authorized service providers and independent repair providers on fair and reasonable terms, this legislation empowers consumers to choose where and how they want to repair their electronic devices. This promotes competition and ensures that consumers have access to a wide range of repair options, ultimately driving down repair costs and benefiting our community members.

Furthermore, by allowing the Attorney General to investigate and penalize manufacturers that violate the terms of the Act, this legislation sends a clear message that unfair and anti-competitive practices will not be tolerated. This provides much-needed protection for consumers and ensures accountability within the industry.

Beyond each of these comments, this legislation speaks to two elements of perhaps even greater importance: equitable access to resources and playing a pivotal role in reducing electronic waste. Rural communities already are challenged with equitable access to broadband and coupling this with limited (or no) availability of local electronic repair providers, can create a severely limiting disadvantage. As we see our landfills grow, finding ways to reduce waste, especially those that

encourage maintenance of a devices rather than disposal, seems to be very forward thinking, impacting generations to come.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this legislation for the benefit of our rural community and all consumers across the state. By ensuring equitable and local access to maintenance and repair options, following fair terms for consumers and independent repair providers, we can promote consumer choice, support small businesses, and foster a more sustainable approach to electronics usage. Thank you for considering my testimony.

**Nichole Rutherford**  
**City Manager, City of Coos Bay**