



Date: February 8, 2024

To: Chair and members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee
From: Scott Bruun, VP Government Affairs, OBI
RE: Support for SB 1596 / Right to repair

Good afternoon, Chair Sollman and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Scott Bruun, and I am the VP of Government Affairs for Oregon Business & Industry, or "OBI." OBI is a statewide business association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600+ member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. OBI's primary mission is to strengthen the business climate in Oregon.

OBI is neutral on SB 1596 and appreciative of the significant improvements in this bill compared to SB 542 from the 2023 session. These improvements include removal of the private right of action provision and the strengthening of protections for intellectual property and proprietary information. Thank you, Madame Chair, for the work you and others did to improve the bill, we know it included a lot of hours, meetings, negotiations, and compromise.

For the record, OBI does want to voice an outstanding concern. The importance of intellectual property protection cannot be overstated. Millions if not tens of millions of dollars of risk capital can go into the development of just a single product. We owe it to the people who put their time, talent and treasure at risk, with no guarantees of success or reward. We owe it to them to protect their proprietary information and intellectual property. This is so important, in fact, that it is even a major component of U.S. foreign policy and our relations with other nations.

We know that here domestically, bodies of law are in place to protect intellectual property and that violations of those laws, whether knowingly or even accidentally, can subject the violator to significant criminal and civil penalties. In other words, these laws require conscious responsibility. It is OBI's hope and expectation that the ultimate beneficiaries of SB 1596, the independent repair providers, are fully cognizant of these responsibilities.

Thank you again Madame Chair, Committee. OBI appreciates the improvements on the bill and the opportunity to testify, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.

Scott Bruun

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