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To the Honorable Members of the Oregon House of Representatives,

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 1596 - "Right to Repair Bill"

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you on behalf of Geeks4Mac, a family owned, small business I jointly own with my husband, specializing in the repair of Apple computers, located in Portland, Oregon. My purpose in writing this letter is to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1596, commonly known as the "Right to Repair Bill". This bill is not only crucial for businesses like mine but also for our customers, the environment, and the broader industry of Apple computer refurbishment and parts vendors.

Businesses like ours play a critical role in our local communities and I say that not in a vacuum, but in the reality we live in today. I can cite just one recent example: The Covid-19 Pandemic. Our shop stayed open throughout the pandemic to service our community as we were that other, often not spoken of, vital business people were counting on during this crisis. As things closed down (including all of the Apple Stores) and people were forced to work from home and continue their children's education at home, our computers and tablets started to serve as a central and needed tool in every household. Ourselves and shops like ours filled a critical need for folks as computers needed upgrading, repairs, et al during this period. We helped three times the normal amount of folks during that period than we had in any other period since we opened in 2009.

In our years of operation, we have witnessed an increasing trend where manufacturers, particularly Apple, employ restrictive practices that significantly hinder our ability to conduct repairs and help our community. This includes the pairing of parts to specific devices, making it impossible to use original Apple parts salvaged from other Apple devices, that would otherwise become part of the growing epidemic of e-waste facing all of us. These limitations not only affect our business operation but also lead to higher repair costs, longer wait times for consumers who must have their devices shipped out to Apple's centralized repair, even when taken to their local Apple Store and a continuing burden on the planet we all share as its pushing consumers to buy new devices continually.

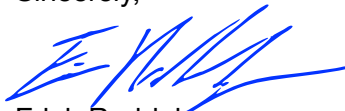
The current practices by Apple and similar companies are creating a monopoly on repairs. This is not only anti-competitive but also goes against the principles of a free market. As a small business, we struggle to compete when we are denied access to necessary tools, diagnostic software, and genuine replacement parts. This exclusion is not just a threat to our business, but it also limits consumer choice and impacts the right of the owner to repair their property. Moreover, this issue extends beyond just the economic impacts. The environment is at stake. The inability to repair and reuse electronic devices contributes significantly to e-waste, one of the fastest-growing waste streams globally. By supporting the repair and refurbishment industry, Senate Bill 1596 would promote a more sustainable approach, reducing the environmental impact associated with the disposal of electronic devices.

Senate Bill 1596 is a step towards a more sustainable, fair, and competitive future. It ensures that small businesses, consumers, and the environment are protected from the monopolistic practices of large corporations. This bill is not just about repairing electronic devices; it's about upholding the principles of a free market, consumer rights, and environmental responsibility. Hundreds and thousands of people are part of this vast community from repair shops, to refurbishers, to part vendors...an entire ecosystem that has built a system of reuse, repair and support. We care about what we do and we care about the communities we do it in...its truly a David and Goliath moment facing you and it needs your support. WE need your support.

As a representative of the small business community in Oregon, I urge you to support Senate Bill 1596. Your backing of this bill will send a strong message that Oregon values economic fairness, consumer rights, and environmental sustainability.

Thank you for considering my views on this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Erick Reddekopp
Co-Owner
Geeks4Mac, Inc.