Submitter: Bleauregard Kasadu

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: SB1596

Technology is advancing exponentially, leading to the production of newer electronics on a regular basis and the obsolescence of the older leading to more electronic waste. It would be fair for manufacturers to supply consumers and maintenance servicers with the parts they need, but this measure would be difficult to implement for smaller manufacturers. Due to the limits of manufacturers' budgets, there is not enough space or machinery to keep producing older parts. They may have to retrofit their assembly lines to transition to the production of other products after a certain amount of time and demand has been met. They may not have the production capacity and warehouse space to maintain an inventory to supply the demand for parts of an older product.

The need to manage waste from electronics is significant. I myself am currently providing a testimony, using a computer that was found in a dumpster less than a month ago by a friend. The original owner had a business that failed, and the electronics for the company went into the dumpster. If my friend had not reclaimed the computer, it would have ended up being buried in a landfill and left to rot until we figured out how to process waste from landfills into useful products. The lack of aeration this computer would have contributed to would have improved the proliferation of methanogens, which releases methane gas. Methane is at least 20-times stronger than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas, which my friend helped to reduce by stopping electronic waste from entering a landfill.

Instead of mandating that manufacturers stretch the limits of their production-wherein the production of newer products is negatively impacted-- perhaps we can
instead address landfill waste management practices in relation to reclaiming
electronics being thrown out. Perhaps we can equip special sensors with magnets to
trash bins, and fine people for throwing away metal. Maybe we can set up a better
system of handling landfill waste, such as sorting it instead of burying it. Maybe we
can deposit landfill waste in large enclosures that bottleneck and filter emissions.

Perhaps we can have manufacturers apply the designs for older electronic parts to a 3D printing process so that consumers can have the part printed at home at a premium, instead of relying on the manufacturer to build and store one. This would save on raw materials and labor for the manufacturer, the consumer would receive the product faster, the product would be guaranteed available regardless of the manufacturer's production capacity, and the ultimate goal of this bill would be met.