

February 27, 2024

To: Oregon State Legislature

Subject: Right to Repair Bill Exclusion

Dear Honorable Representatives and Senators,

My name is Tracy Jones and I am the President of Sonitrol of East Cascades, a Pacific Northwest owned company with headquarters in Bend. I am writing to urge you to exclude security and fire alarm systems from the proposed “Right to Repair” bill that is currently under consideration.

Excluding security and fire alarm systems from Right to Repair legislation is crucial for security and public safety concerns. These systems play a vital role in emergency response and must adhere to strict standards, building codes, fire codes & licensure requirements. Allowing unrestricted repairs, modifications and disclosure of electronic schematics will compromise these standards, leading to potential malfunction, liability and even use by our enemies to defeat these systems. The specialized nature of these systems requires expertise, ensuring that repairs and service are carried out with adherence to life safety standards, fire codes & confidentiality in certain secure environments. By maintaining a controlled repair environment, we safeguard the reliability and effectiveness of security and life safety systems, ultimately prioritizing the safety and security of the public at large, individual lives, property, and even our nation’s secrets.

Bad actors could utilize right to repair to hack into security systems, fire alarms, cameras, and door access controls at schools, daycares, nursing homes, government buildings, commercial offices, industry facilities, and even our own homes if this legislation is able to pass as written. Citizens rely on our industry’s products and the technicians who integrate them for their safety.

A consensus of common sense formed last year as New York, Minnesota, and California passed right to repair legislation and exempted security and life safety systems from it so citizens, their families, and their property could remain safe moving forward. We invite Oregon to join that consensus.

I ask that the following language is added to this bill: ***"Nothing in this bill applies to security or life safety systems and devices, or to manufacturers of security or life safety systems and devices."***

We would also be agreeable to joining with our allies at The Electronic Security Association (ESA), The Security Industry Association (SIA), the Alarm Industry Committee (AICC), The Monitoring Association (TMA) and the Automated Fire Alarm Association (AFAA) in supporting alternative exemption language such as:

Nothing in this Act (including any requirement to disclose security codes, passwords or system schematics) shall apply to a manufacturer, dealer, distributor, integrator, installer or monitoring service provider of a security device or alarm system (including but not limited to all central station alarm systems and any other digital electronic equipment used to prevent, detect, protect against, or respond to fire, carbon monoxide risks, falls, medical alerts or security incidents or control access to residential, commercial, and governmental property, services, or information systems).

I urge you to protect the welfare of your constituents. Please exempt security and life safety systems from this legislation.

Yours for safety and security,

Tracy Jones

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