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February 3, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 550: Right to Repair - Support

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) is a 501(c)6 committed to supporting policies that promote high-quality recycling and composting, thoughtful consumption, and producer responsibility. We believe the producers that manufacture and sell products to Oregonians should have a role in how products are managed at the end of their usable life. Equity and community partnerships are also centered in our guiding principles because we believe the reuse, repair and recycling economy should benefit everyone, including communities of color and rural areas. Our principles around equity and the environment are why AOR believes SB 550 is an important reuse and recycling bill in the 2025 legislative session.

SB 550 would expand Oregon's current right to repair law to require manufacturers to provide necessary resources, from parts and tools to embedded software and essential documentation, to both wheelchair owners and independent repair providers. Waiting for approval from Medicaid before getting a chair fixed can add weeks or even months to the amount of time it takes to get a mobility device fixed. Colorado and California have both passed right to repair laws that address power wheelchairs and similar devices, and SB 550 would add Oregon as a place that is more friendly to those that depend on wheelchairs.

While recycling, reuse and repair are all methods of reducing waste, reuse and repair result in the highest environmental and economic benefits. Repair and reuse extend the life of the original product in this case will assist those that depend on wheelchairs and mobility devices for their daily lives while at the same time reduce waste.

AOR believes SB 550 is the type of policy we need to harness the environmental and economic value of by making repair more convenient and accessible to everyone. For these reasons, the Association of Oregon Recyclers supports Senate Bill 550 and urges your support.

Sincerely,

Joel Schoening

Chair, Association of Oregon Recyclers

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