

January 23, 2020

Attn: Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business

From: Joseph Elichaa
Refurb Supplies
225 First Flight Drive
Auburn, ME 04210

Re: I support LD 1977, the Right to Repair

My name is Joseph Elichaa, and I have been a part of the secondary market created by the right to repair for over 25 years. During this time, I have been the owner of two profitable small businesses. Through my companies, I have employed over 100 people and have provided affordable products and services to other small businesses. These products and services have helped them save money and stay profitable. Losing the right to repair could close many small businesses and put many people out of jobs.

I support the right to repair for several reasons:

1. The right to repair spurs growth of the small business, both for companies that offer repairs and for other companies that develop aftermarket repair parts. These companies hire employees, pay taxes, provide a service to end-users of electronic products.
2. The right to repair keeps electronic products out of the waste stream. Used electronics that need repair can be resold and given a second life. Reduce-reuse-recycle has a place in the electronics industry.
3. Consumers have more choices about the electronic products they purchase. Some new electronics products can be prohibitive to small start-up companies.
4. Limiting repairs and parts to OEM companies ensure that they will have control over when and how a product that you have purchased can be resold, repaired, and reach end-of-life. Once you buy a product, it isn't your product? Shouldn't you be able to decide that you want to make inexpensive repairs, purchase parts from whoever you chose, and replace a system when you are ready, not when your told that it is no longer supported?

Thank you.

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