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January 8, 2024

Maine Legislature Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Subject: Support for ME LD 1716, HP1105 - An Act to Establish a Repairability Index for Consumer Electronic Products

Dear Chairs Curry and Roberts and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for ME LD1716, "An Act to Establish a Repairability Index for Consumer Electronic Products." As the owner of MacRevival, a computer repair shop in Ellsworth, Maine, I have seen firsthand the importance of empowering consumers with information about the repairability of their electronic devices.

My team seeks to provide our customers with high quality, durable computers. To that end, we refurbish well tested laptop and desktop computers. We select only business grade laptops for Windows users as we find consumer grade windows laptops are often made with known design flaws such as poorly supported case hinges which, whe

ME LD1716 is a progressive and forward-thinking piece of legislation that seeks to ensure transparency and promote sustainability in the consumer electronics industry. By directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to solicit repairability index scores from producers of consumer electronic products, this bill takes a crucial step towards creating a more informed consumer base.

As a business owner in the computer repair industry for over 26 years, I believe that this legislation will greatly benefit my customers in several ways. First and foremost, it will provide them with valuable information about the repairability of commonly used consumer electronic products, such as cellular telephones, laptop computers, television monitors, electric lawnmowers, top-loading washing machines, vacuum cleaners, or high-pressure washers. This knowledge will empower consumers to make more informed purchasing decisions, considering the longevity and sustainability of the products they choose.

Additionally, the requirement for producers and retailers to make the repairability index scores publicly accessible on the department's website and provide this information to consumers will enhance transparency and accountability within the industry. This transparency is vital for consumers who are increasingly concerned about the environmental impact of electronic waste and wish to make environmentally conscious choices.

Furthermore, as a computer repair shop owner, I often encounter challenges in repairing devices due to manufacturers' designs that prioritize disposability over repairability. ME LD1716's focus on repairability indexing sends a clear message to producers that the State of Maine values products designed for longevity and repair. This can potentially lead to a positive shift in the manufacturing practices of consumer electronic products, fostering a more sustainable and environmentally friendly industry.

I also urge the Committee to consider expanding the scope of ME LD1716 to include additional consumer electronic products that play a significant role in today's digital landscape. Tablets and desktop computers are integral components of modern technology, and their inclusion in the repairability index would provide consumers with valuable insights into the longevity and repair options for these commonly used devices. Tablets, with their widespread use in education and business, and desktop computers, serving as essential workstations for many individuals, are equally deserving of attention under this legislation. I believe that this expansion would amplify the positive impact of ME LD1716, promoting transparency and sustainability across a more comprehensive range of electronic devices.

In conclusion, I urge you to support ME LD1716 and take a significant step towards creating a more sustainable and consumer-friendly electronic products market. This bill aligns with the values of transparency, consumer empowerment, and environmental responsibility. I appreciate your attention to this matter and your dedication to fostering innovation, development, economic advancement, and business in the state of Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas Waterbury Davis Beal  
President  
MacRevival