



Testimony in Support of LD 1908

An Act to Require the Cooperation of Original Manufacturers of Electronic Devices to Facilitate the Repair of Those Devices by Device Owners and Independent Repair Providers

Victor Horton, Executive Director
Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRA)

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Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Victor Horton, Executive Director of Maine Resource Recovery Association.

This bill is very important to Maine residents and recyclers alike.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of LD 1908.

LD 1908 helps those qualified individuals and technicians get the tools and parts necessary to be able to fix many items such as: electronics. Having the instructions be accessible outside the normal manufacturer circle is critical.

Many people would likely dispose of a product if it takes the proverbial act of congress to make the repair happen or learn how to do it.

Presently, electronics sold in Maine can be designed to limit who is allowed to fix the item and limit whether an item is even capable of being fixed.

This makes it very easy to dispose of an item that may only need a simple repair to get it in working order instead of being tossed out.

Encouraging design changes would also be helpful for consumers and the environment.

Maine has several product stewardship laws that are designed to encourage thoughtful management of the products we buy.

LD 1908 is a necessary step toward reversing planned obsolescence, but it should not be the last. As technology continues to evolve, we need to stay vigilant in exploring additional consumer protections related to software, subscriptions, and performance-limiting updates that shorten product lifespans and undermine consumer choice.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1908.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted
Victor Horton
Executive Director

The Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting professional and sustainable materials management in Maine.

Established in 1984, MRRA serves over 160 municipalities through its work to provide ongoing education on waste regulations, evolving waste streams, and best practices. We also assist 60 transfer stations and recycling centers and help members find markets for recyclable materials, reinforcing Maine's commitment to resource recovery.