

Testimony of Pat Ianni, submitted to the Joint Committee on Housing and Economic Development of the 132nd Maine Legislature (2nd session)

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 & Independent Repair Providers

January 6, 2026

Good morning Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Pat Ianni and I am a resident of Falmouth. I am a retired environmental scientist and as such, I spent almost 40 years working in the area of hazardous waste investigations and regulatory compliance. My education, however, focused on natural resource *conservation* which taught me the benefit of *conservatively* using any and all resources – natural or man-made. As such, I have spent my life finding ways to repair and reuse the “stuff” I buy – whether expensive or inexpensive items. “Why buy a new item, if the old one can be repaired?”

Hence, I have come to regard these “right to repair” laws as incredibly important and common sense policy approaches to *allowing and incentivizing consumers* to repair products that have a long potential “use life” well beyond that which often results if a product, especially a consumer electronics device or an appliance, needs a simple repair and is discarded. These “right to repair” rules benefit not only the consumers, and the small repair businesses, and our Maine economy, but, more importantly, they extend the life of the source materials (i.e., minerals and rare earth metals) often needed to create many products we use on a daily basis, and they also minimize the energy sources needed to manufacture so many replacement products. Even more importantly, they reduce the amount of these products which ultimately end up in our landfills and incinerators (which generate harmful ash needing to be landfilled) when a simple repair may have significantly extended the product life. As you all know, things sent to a landfill for disposal or an incinerator, do NOT go “away”, they simply send them “out of sight, out of mind”, but only for the short term. The chemicals in these products, never fully go “away” and often re-appear in unwanted places – like our soils, our water, our air and our bodies.

Thus, I urge you to support and pass LD 1908 to help consumers, small businesses, the Maine economy, and most importantly, the environment which often cannot easily be “repaired”.