



Mike Tipping
Senator, District 8

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

My name is Mike Tipping. I represent Senate District 8 in Penobscot County. I'm proud to be here today to present LD 1487.

It has always been understood in this country that when you buy something, it belongs to you. You can use it, you can lend it to a friend, you can sell it, you can take it apart and you can fix it if it breaks.

Mainers, with our sense of independence and frugality, have often proudly taken this understanding to its extreme, long extending the useful life of all kinds of items and machines and refusing to throw anything away. If you drive down just about any road in my district you'll eventually see a sign offering small engine or furniture repair.

Unfortunately, some manufacturers have found that they can make more money if they make it impossible to repair certain devices, especially electronic items like phones and computers that have become central to our lives.

They do this in a number of ways, from designing new screw heads that require screwdrivers with a specific geography to implementing software locks that recognize an attempt to repair a device and intentionally disable it. These kinds of digital locks are being applied to more and more products, including now farm equipment and cars. As you know, a referendum on the right to repair automobiles will soon come before the people of Maine.

This right to repair bill would prevent manufacturers from making these barriers insurmountable for non-automobile electronic devices, preventing them from denying consumers the ability to repair and modify the items they have purchased and own.

LD 1487 requires that manufacturers of digital devices doing business in Maine make the same repair materials they already provide to their repair partners to device owners and independent repair specialists on fair and reasonable terms. It doesn't require that manufacturers change the design, marketing or pricing of their devices in any way.

Allowing independent repair businesses to fix these devices is an important part of this legislation. We're a rural state and right now many Mainers have to wait for weeks or travel long distances to have their devices repaired. It's one thing for your iPhone to break when you live in Boston or Portland, it's another to have it break when you're hundreds of miles away from the nearest Apple Store.

This bill is about important rights of ownership and independence, but it's also a pocketbook issue. This protection would bring down the costs of repairs for Mainers dramatically while allowing



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them to extend the life of their devices. It makes a big difference to a family budget if you only have to replace your phone every six years, instead of every three.

One recent report estimated that ensuring a right to repair would save households an average of \$382 per year.

Several other states have already passed Right to Repair legislation, including New York last year and Colorado this year. 28 of the remaining states are considering an expansion of these rights this during their current legislative sessions. Maine's Attorney General recently signed on to a letter demanding a national right to repair law. Now would be the perfect time for Maine to act.

For me, this is personal. Some of my favorite moments with my kids have been teaching them how to do engine maintenance on a lawn tractor or a snowblower, or how to fix their own toys. I want future generations to have that same opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Chair, Labor and Housing Committee

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