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Testimony of Rep. Lydia Crafts presenting
LD 1716, An Act to Establish a Repairability Index for Consumer Electronic Products
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Good afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. I'm Representative Lydia Crafts, and I serve House District 46. I'm here before you today to present *LD 1716, An Act to Establish a Repairability Index for Consumer Electronic Products.*

When our electronics break, we often face barriers to repairing them, which can result in shelling out hundreds of dollars for a fix or a replacement. Unfortunately, many phones and laptops currently on the market are difficult to fix by design. These intentional difficulties drive up the cost of repairs and produce mountains of electronic waste. The consumer is the ultimate loser in this process. I hear from constituents that, in the worst situations, they feel powerless in a market designed to charge premium prices for products with little lasting value. In the best situation they are making costly purchases with little knowledge of if, or how easily, they might repair their device.

In order to protect consumers, Maine needs to introduce a repairability index. LD 1716 would require electronics manufacturers to display a repair score from zero to 10, which would inform consumers how fixable that product is.

The repair scoring system will evaluate various factors, including the ease of disassembly, the availability and pricing of spare parts and access to repair documentation. This repair score will be prominently featured on the product or in close proximity to pricing information. To facilitate a smooth transition, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) will engage in outreach efforts with manufacturers, offering technical assistance. Additionally, DECD will adopt the necessary rules for the proper implementation and administration of the system.

This legislation would be designed to give consumers a clear and concise understanding of a product's repairability, so Mainers can make more informed purchases. We know this model works. France implemented a similar system in 2021, which has prompted companies like Amazon to display repair scores next to certain electronic devices sold in that country. By adopting a similar system, Maine could lead the country in repairability and save consumers and

manufacturers money. Promising research from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group found that families could save $382 per year if we could repair, instead of replace, our technology. Furthermore, score requirements are showing that the scores of phones and laptops have actually increased since the system's introduction. Samsung's own research found that 86% of surveyed consumers in France report that the repair scoring impacts purchasing behavior – including eight out of 10 who indicated they would give up their favorite brand in favor of a more repairable product.

Repair scores also promote environmental responsibility. Electronic waste is now the fastest-growing part of the domestic municipal waste stream, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For years, manufacturers have been pushing us towards a cycle of consumption and waste. It's true; things just aren't made the way they used to be. Devices are designed to be replaced rather than repaired, which is disastrous for our environment. According to the International Telecommunication Union, only 17% of e-waste is appropriately recycled, which means the vast majority of the world's annual 57 million metric tons of e-waste largely enters our waste stream, with terrible environmental ramifications.

By affording consumers more of an ability to repair their electronics and promoting a culture of sustainability, we are not only enhancing consumer rights but also contributing to a greener, more resilient future.

Thank you for your time and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

REPAIRABILITY INDEX CALCULATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE PARAMETERS WHICH ALLOWED TO ESTABLISH IT	*Corded electric lawn mower*

Date of calculation	Please fill out
Producer's or importer's name or trademark	Please fill out
Producer or importer adress	Please fill out
Producer's or importer's model identifier	Please fill out

This "FINAL_SCORE" tab in English is purely indicative. In order to meet regulatory obligations, only the "NOTE_FINALE" tab in French (see the next tab) is to be sent. Note: The results are automatically reported in the French tab.

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Score of subcriterion /10	Weighting factor of subcriterion	Score of criterion /20	Total criteria scores /100
CRITERION 1 : DOCUMENTATION	1.1 Availability of the technical documentation and other documentation related to user and maintenance instructions	.	2	.	.
CRITERION 2 : DISASSEMBLY, ACCESSIBILITY, TOOLS, FASTENERS	2.1 Ease of disassembly parts from List 2*	.	1	.	
	2.2 Necessary tools (List 2)	.	0.5		
	2.3 Fasteners characteristics parts from List 1** and List 2	.	0.5		
CRITERION 3 : AVAILABILITY OF SPARE PARTS	3.1 Availability over time parts from List 2	.	1	.	
	3.2 Availability over time parts from List 1	.	0.5		
	3.3 Delivery time parts from List 2	.	0.3		
	3.4 Delivery time parts from List 1	.	0.2		
CRITERION 4 : PRICE OF SPARE PARTS	4. Ratio between price of parts from list 2 to the price of the product	.	2	.	
CRITERION 5 : SPECIFIC CRITERION	5.1 Free remote assistance	.	2	.	
			Reparability index on 10		.

** list 2: list of a maximum of 3 to 5 spare parts (depending on the category of equipment concerned) whose broken or malfunctioning parts are the most frequent;*

*** list 1: list of a maximum of 10 other spare parts (depending on the category of equipment concerned) whose good condition is necessary for the operation of the equipment.*