



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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January 9, 2024

The Honorable Chip Curry, Senate Chair
The Honorable Tiffany Roberts, House Chair
Joint Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and
Business

***Re: LD 1716 – An Act to Establish a Repairability Index for Consumer
Electronic Products***

Dear Chair Curry, Chair Roberts, and members of the Committee:

I write to express TechNet's opposition to LD 1716, legislation which would offer Mainers an incomplete picture of the quality of electronic devices, require the release of sensitive product information, and contribute to a potential patchwork of competing indices.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.2 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Repairability is one of many factors customers take into account when purchasing a device, and OEMs must balance repairability with other critical concerns like durability, safety, security, and performance. The proposed index would require manufacturers to prominently display a score based on just a handful of factors, devoid of additional context, ultimately providing prospective consumers with a very incomplete picture of the overall quality of the product.

LD 1716 would require the state Department of Economic and Community Development to develop the criteria, solicit the relevant documentation from all manufacturers, score the products, and enforce the provisions of the law. This is a massive undertaking which would be incredibly expensive for the state to implement and for Maine businesses to comply with.

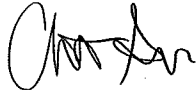
There are significant technical issues with the bill as currently drafted that further complicate compliance, including:

- The bill does not include a list of priority parts the law applies to;
- The bill is missing rules and criteria present in existing indices in other jurisdictions covering things like disassembly steps, fastener characteristics, tools for disassembly, spare part availability duration and delivery time;
- The entity responsible for compliance is the "producer", defined as the owner of the brand, however, many products that carry a certain brand are manufactured by third parties not owned or otherwise associated with that brand.

Due to the significant cost, technical issues, and far-reaching implications, we believe such a policy is best handled at the national level. As such, we ask that the Committee not advance LD 1716 at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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