

Good afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Jeff Minihan, and I live in South Berwick, Maine. I am testifying in favor of all the bills that have been grouped together today.

While they may all have a similar topic, they are each very different and address individual areas of complexity. Each being so nuanced as to warrant individual hearings. In my opinion, today's mass bundling does not acknowledge those nuances and is a disservice to the Maine people.

That being said, I begin by saying I am one of the 84% of Mainers who voted in favor of the so-called "Right to Repair" ballot measure. I voted for it because I believed the false narrative that Mainers couldn't get their vehicles repaired wherever they wanted. What I didn't vote for was unfettered state-enforced access to the data produced when I drive my vehicle...my personal data. But that's what we got.

Just so it's very clear. I support small businesses in Maine, and I support the ability of Maine residents to get their vehicles repaired where they can and want to get their vehicles repaired. I'm willing to say that more than 84% would agree with me on this. The thing is, Mainers had this ability before the ballot measure and still do today. By voting in favor of these bills, you, as our representatives, are supporting what Mainers want. More importantly, by supporting these bills, you are protecting Mainers from what they didn't know that they got. You would be helping protect our data.

Over the summer, I attended or listened to all of the Attorney General's working group meetings. From those meetings, I gained an appreciation for the complexities involved. From the conversations had by the working group members as well as the input from experts they engaged with, it was made very clear that telematics are not needed to perform repairs to our vehicles. When I hire a local small business to mow my lawn, I don't give them the keys to my house, the code to my safe and add them to my Find My Friends app. That would be foolish and unsafe. Voting in favor of these bills is the responsible thing to ensure your constituents' personal data remains secure.

There are many other pieces of this topic which lead me to urge your support of these such as the dangerous exclusion of clear definitions for key pieces within the "Right to Repair" language. As written, because there is no clear definition, I am an independent auto repairer. I can tell you honestly, nobody wants that.

As lawmakers, creating and clarifying the rules the rest of us must adhere to, you can understand the severe implications of not clearly defining the terms which a law is meant to govern. This is one of the most basic parts of creating a law because a lack of clarity puts everyone at risk. I ask you to support clearly defining the terms.