

Dear Chair Curry, Chair Gere, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Zev Whitcomb, and I am a student at Camden Hills Regional High School conducting a research project on exclusions from repair bills for consumer electronics. I strongly believe in the right to repair, so I would like to express my support for LD 1908, as it ensures that consumers receive the necessary support from manufacturers to facilitate effective independent repairs. However, none of the six states that have passed similar legislation have done so without offering some set of exemptions for various manufacturing sectors. I have summarized these to the best of my ability in the table below, along with those offered in LD 1908. I apologize for any possible mistakes in classification or other such oversights on my part. I have also included names of the oppositional testimonies identified as specifically representing any of these sectors given at the public hearing for LD 1487 in the last legislative session, as well as an estimate of national consensus for each sector, provided the set of exemptions among enacted legislation. My greatest takeaway from this dataset is that LD 1908 closely aligns with the national status quo and should therefore pass as written. A certain few of these sectors stand out particularly for their relevance to Maine. The abundance of testimonies classified under “Off-Road/Nonroad Equipment” is itself an indicator of how important these industries are to Mainers. Accordingly, LD 1908 now contains the same exclusionary language as in New York’s bill and many of those passed since, as suggested by Senator Farrin in his testimony. I believe this is the right move, as while I especially support the right to repair agricultural equipment, such issues might be better addressed by separate legislation, as done in Colorado. The same is true for motor vehicles, for which we already have a repair law in Maine and Massachusetts. In conclusion, comparing the exclusions offered by LD 1908 to those in enacted repair legislation across the country only supports the validity of this bill and its potential to adequately appease all stakeholders as written.

Sector	Notes	Maine Testimony (2023)	Maine LD 1908 (2023)	California (2023)	Colorado (2024)	Minnesota (2023)	New York (2022)	Oregon (2024)	Washington (2023)	Consensus	Legend
Alarm Systems			p. 2, lines 15–16	p. 4, § 3(B)(1)	p. 30, § 2(5)(a)		p. 20–21, § 2(a)		p. 5, lines 2–11	3 Exempt	Exempt
Electric Toothbrushes	May be classified as medical technology										Partially Exempt
Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment					p. 9–10, § 2(3)(f)						Exempt
Electronic Bicycles							p. 20–21, § 2(a)				Exempt
Emergency Communications			p. 2, lines 12–14		p. 9, § 2(3)(g)		p. 20–21, § 2(a)		p. 5, lines 2–11	3 Exempt	Exempt
Energy Storage & Generation	*Generators Only		p. 1, lines 20 to p. 2, line 1		p. 9–10, § 2(3)(h)	p. 11, § 4(a), 6(a), 7(a)	p. 20–21, § 2(a)	p. 3, § 1(b)(1)(A)(i)(A)	p. 5, lines 2–11 p. 10, lines 2–3	2 Exempt, 1 Partial	Exempt
Home Appliances		Kenne					p. 20–21, § 2(a)				
HVAC/R		Breese					p. 20–21, § 2(a)				
Medical Technology		Kozysky et al.			p. 9, § 2(3)(d), (e)	p. 11, § 4(a), 6(a)	p. 20–21, § 2(a)	p. 3, § 1(b)(1)(A)(i)(A)	p. 5, lines 2–11	3 Exempt	Exempt
Motor Vehicles	Covered by a separate bill in several states	Hanz	p. 1, lines 10–12		p. 9, § 2(3)(b), (c)	p. 11, § 4(a), 6(a)	p. 20–21, § 2(a)	p. 3, § 1(b)(1)(A)(i)(A)	p. 5, lines 2–11	3 Exempt	Exempt
	*Fewer sectors covered	Brown; Farrin; Fisher; Hall; Keeler & Tokowicz; Marks; McGuire; McLaughlin; Miller; Mustice; Driedette; Schaeffer; Smith; Wentz									
Off-Road/Nonroad Equipment	Agricultural equipment covered by a separate law in Colorado		p. 1, lines 20 to p. 2, line 1	p. 4, § 3(B)(1)	p. 9, § 2(3)(b), (c)	p. 11, § 4(a), 6(a)	p. 20–21, § 2(a)	p. 3, § 1(b)(1)(A)(i)(A)	p. 5, lines 2–11 p. 10, lines 2–3	2 Exempt, 1 Partial	Exempt
Power Distribution Equipment			p. 1, lines 2–4		p. 9–10, § 2(3)(d)		p. 20–21, § 2(a)				
Solar/Renewables	*Solar Only				p. 9, § 2(3)(d)						1 Exempt, 2 Partial
Video Game Consoles		Martin	p. 1, lines 27–29	p. 4, § 3(B)(1)	p. 30, § 2(5)(a)	p. 11, § 4(a), 6(a)	p. 20–21, § 2(a)	p. 3, § 1(b)(1)(A)(i)(A)	p. 5, lines 2–11		

Thank you for your time and consideration. I invite anyone willing to contribute to my research to reach out after today’s hearing.

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