



**Testimony in Support of LD 1908,
An Act to Require the Cooperation of Original Manufacturers of Electronic Devices to
Facilitate the Repair of Those Devices by Device Owners and Independent Repair Providers**

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Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, my name is Vanessa Berry, and I am the Sustainable Maine Program Manager for the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM). I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of LD 1908.

This bill would facilitate the repair of electronics by making tools, parts, and instructions accessible to device owners and local repair providers who have the skills to fix them. Without forcing design changes or compromising safety or security of devices, this bill offers consumers more options to repair their wanted items – a benefit to Maine people, our local repair economy, and our environment.

Currently, electronics sold in Maine can be designed to limit who is allowed to fix the item and whether an item is even capable of being fixed, making it increasingly likely that useful items will be thrown out, even for minor issues. This increases waste, increases consumer costs, and undermines local repair trades, and is entirely preventable by enabling Maine people to repair devices locally.

Electronic waste is difficult to manage at the end of life.

Maine has several product stewardship laws requiring producers to collect and manage goods at the end of life, including successful programs for cell phones and electronic waste. At its peak, Maine recycled nearly 8.5 million pounds of e-waste annually, but with recent challenges to supply chains, the rate of recycling has dropped by more than 60 percent, collecting just over 3 million pounds in 2023.¹

Most electronics are comprised of finite natural resources that require intensive extraction and processing, including copper, gold, lithium, and cobalt. Recycling is important, and we do need to recover these valuable materials, but recycling alone cannot offset the environmental impact of the disposal of electronics at the current rate. Extending product life is an effective and important way to reduce the volume of electronics that needs to be managed and reduce demand for extraction and processing of minerals used in electronics.

Market incentives have led to increasingly irreparable consumer goods.

Although Mainers tend to be thrifty and value products that last, many producers design goods that are not built to last and are difficult to repair, even for basic issues like replacing batteries or fixing a cracked screen.

Brands that once proudly advertised the longevity of their products seem to have abandoned these values in favor of planned obsolescence – creating items that are more likely to malfunction and

¹ Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 2025 Annual Product Stewardship Report

require replacement, at further cost to the consumer. Without access to the necessary tools, instructions, or expertise needed to repair such products, consumers have no choice but to replace them far sooner than necessary.

Right to repair empowers consumers to fix items before considering disposal.

Maine is home to vibrant repair communities – from Dover-Foxcroft and Farmington to Belfast and South Portland – where local volunteers help neighbors fix everyday household items. These efforts reflect a strong appetite for repair, but too often, design barriers get in the way.

Right-to-repair laws would help change that. They not only keep items out of landfills but also enable people to better understand and care for their devices. This is especially beneficial for low-income households that cannot easily replace costly electronics. At the same time, these laws support local repair providers and uphold Maine's tradition of resourcefulness.

LD 1908 is a clear policy solution that helps ensure that repair is a realistic option.

This legislation represents an important first step in addressing planned obsolescence. As technology evolves, Maine can build on this progress by exploring additional consumer protections to preserve product lifespans.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to vote **Ought to Pass** on LD 1908. Thank you for your time and consideration.