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Testimony by Thomas Beal, President, MacRevival, Ellsworth

In Support of ME LD1716, HP1105 - An Act to Establish a Repairability Index for Consumer Electronic Products

January 8, 2024

Maine Legislature Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Dear Chairs Curry and Roberts and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong endorsement for ME LD1716, "An Act to Establish a Repairability Index for Consumer Electronic Products." As the proprietor of MacRevival, a computer repair shop in Ellsworth, Maine, I have witnessed the pressing need for consumers to be well-informed about the repairability of their electronic devices.

Our dedication to sustainability and the provision of high-quality, durable computers align seamlessly with the objectives of ME LD1716. At MacRevival, we take pride in refurbishing thoroughly tested laptop and desktop computers. Specifically, we meticulously choose business-grade laptops for Windows users due to their superior durability. Regrettably, we have identified design flaws in consumer-grade Windows laptops, such as poorly supported case hinges and brittle snapped-together cases. Furthermore, our concerns with recent Apple industrial designs, notably the integration of RAM and storage on motherboards and the use of adhesives for displays and batteries, have resulted in less easily repairable Apple devices.

The availability of a Repairability Index will provide my customers, who are overwhelmingly consumers, expertise and guidance in making informed choices about which products to purchase and whether to select repair over replacement. The data when available would be exceedingly valuable to them.

I urge the Committee to contemplate broadening the scope of ME LD1716 to encompass additional consumer electronic products. Tablets, used for their portability,

and desktop computers, used for better performance and accessibility due to larger screen size, warrant attention under this legislation.

This transparency is pivotal for my business, aiming to provide customers with enduring computers while offering independent assessments of the products we sell and service. By endorsing ME LD1716, the Committee has an opportunity to confront challenges in the consumer electronics industry, thereby benefiting both businesses and consumers alike.

In conclusion, I implore your support for ME LD1716, heralding a substantial stride toward a more sustainable and consumer-friendly electronic products market. This bill resonates with the values of transparency, consumer empowerment, and environmental responsibility. I appreciate your attention to this matter and your dedication to fostering innovation, development, economic advancement, and business in the state of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Waterbury Davis Beal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some capitalization.

Thomas Waterbury Davis Beal  
President  
MacRevival