



January 28, 2022

Dear Chair Stephenson and members of the committee,

ReUSE Minnesota is submitting this letter in support of HF1156: Digital fair repair, also known as digital right to repair.

ReUSE Minnesota is a nonprofit dedicated to championing reuse in our state. **Our membership includes small and large repair businesses, resale stores, and rental shops, as well as government entities, consultants, and individuals who support reuse.** Minnesota is home to more than 10,000 reuse businesses that generate \$5.8 billion each year. Their work helps our state avoid 2.7 million metric tons of CO₂ and reduces freshwater usage by 67 billion gallons annually.¹

ReUSE Minnesota strongly supports digital right to repair legislation because accessible repair is critical to advancing the environmental, social, and economic benefits of a reuse-based economy. Repair is where waste prevention and reuse intersect, thus extending the life of items already in use. Repair reduces the amount of material heading to landfills which have long-term management costs for private waste companies, counties, and the state.

Unfortunately, some manufacturers have made repair of electronics, appliances, and farming equipment unnecessarily difficult by limiting access to original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts. This leaves many small shops to rely on aftermarket or scavenged options that may not serve their customers well. This issue is further compounded by restrictions on who can have access to diagnostic equipment, manuals, and tools to properly identify problems and make repairs. Blocking access to these critical aspects of repair undercuts and impedes the work of independent Minnesota repair businesses.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) heartily endorsed right to repair in May of 2021. Their report - Nixing the Fix - found scant evidence that consumers are harmed by fixing their own products, an argument often made for restricting consumer-directed repair. The greater concern is repairs made without the proper parts and tools.

Support for digital right to repair is bipartisan and widespread. Across the country, state legislation has been introduced by members of both major parties. Polls consistently indicate that 75% of voters favor adoption of the legislation, regardless of demographics. In a survey of our own members, 100% of respondents "strongly support" or "support" the passage of right to repair legislation in Minnesota.

The reuse sector already accounts for over 55,000 jobs in Minnesota. Let's grow that number by supporting our local repair shops and technicians and passing digital right to repair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily K Barker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Emily Barker
Executive Director

¹ [Reuse Impact Report](#), 2020