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Testimony to

House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 , 12:30 PM

on

[HF1337: Digital Fair Repair](#)

Thank you Mr. Chair, members of the committee.

Good afternoon, my name is Anne Morse. I'm the Executive Director of the Minnesota Solid Waste Administrators Association (aka SWAA), an affiliate of the Association of Minnesota Counties. SWAA represents the people responsible for managing solid waste for all of Minnesota's counties and waste management districts, as directed by the 1997 Waste Management Act, or Chapter 115A of Mn Statutes.

Chapter 115A also established a waste management hierarchy for the state. Reuse sits atop the waste hierarchy, meaning it's the most desirable outcome, and should receive our primary emphasis. In the decades following 1997, counties naturally focused their efforts on how best to manage the vast amount of waste already being generated. But today, with our disposal systems well established, we're finally turning our attention to prioritizing reduction and reuse.

As a result, SWAA strongly supports HF1337, the Digital Fair Repair bill. Our members manage electronic "waste" through collecting, dismantling and transporting electronic devices to recyclers for further processing. In most cases, the cost of these programs are paid for by county taxpayers, or through fees charged at their facilities.

As we know, the very best way to manage waste is to prevent it from being created. And HF1337 does this by allowing owners of digital electronics to have their devices repaired, or the parts salvaged for the repair of other devices. Allowing Minnesotans the ability to repair more electronic devices will reduce the amount of waste we must manage, and prevent recycling and disposal costs from being incurred. This is especially important in rural Minnesota, where county budgets are small in comparison to those in the metro area. Repairing and reusing more products is an important step on the road to reducing the expense of waste management, which is shouldered by local governments all across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.