

February 14, 2023

Sent via email

RE: HF1337 – Minnesota Digital Fair Repair

Dear Chair Stephenson and House Commerce Committee members:

I am writing to express support for HF1337: Digital Fair Repair, also known as digital right to repair. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) supports this bill given the clear environmental and economic benefits of increased repair and reuse of electronic equipment.

Climate and environmental considerations

Repair, which is considered “reuse” in the state’s waste management hierarchy ([§ 115A.02](#)), is environmentally preferable to recycling and producing new items because it extends the useful life of existing products thereby slowing waste generation, reducing resource and energy needs, and reducing climate impacts.

Economic considerations

Minnesota’s reuse economy generates approximately \$5.8 billion each year, with over 10,600 businesses statewide. Digital fair repair provides access to parts, tools, and documentation that support independent local repair businesses, and creates jobs statewide that often pay above minimum wage. MPCA estimates 1% (400,000 pounds) of household electronics currently collected under Minnesota’s e-waste law are repaired and resold, with a clear opportunity to grow. This bill does not eliminate standards for unauthorized modifications of equipment. Illegal tampering would remain illegal.

Social considerations

A Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report, “[Nixing the Fix](#),” outlines digital right to repair considerations and notes “the burden of repair restrictions may fall more heavily on communities of color and lower-income communities.” Repair restrictions can adversely affect underserved communities when repairs are less accessible or financially restrictive, limiting these populations from having functional electronic devices. Given society’s strong dependence on electronic devices, particularly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, these barriers are a notable equity issue.

I hope you will consider the benefits Digital Fair Repair will bring to Minnesota. We encourage you to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

David J. Benke

This document has been electronically signed.

David J. Benke
Division Director
Resource Management & Assistance Division

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