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February 23, 2023

Senate File 1598 (Kupec)/House File 1337 (Fischer)

Dear Representative Fischer and Senator Kupec,

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) represents 10,000 small businesses across Minnesota. Our average member employs 10 people; 90% of our members have fewer than 20 employees. Our mission is to advocate for the best interests of Main Street.

NFIB supports Senate File 1598/House File 1337, the Digital Fair Repair Act. We strive to protect our members right to own, operate, and grow their small business with interference. The Digital Fair Repair Act provides small businesses – from family farms to small manufacturers to mom-and-pop repair shops – the ability to do that in a world where digitization of work and life seems unlikely to slow any time soon.

This bill increases equipment options and reduces maintenance costs for consumers and small businesses at a time when even mundane tasks now rely on digital electronic equipment. It does this by increasing repair market competition, giving control of devices and equipment to people who purchase them, and guarding against unfair and anticompetitive practices.

Lastly, we believe this bill does and should continue to appropriately balance the need for original manufacturer trade secret protection with the ability of product owners to control and repair their equipment and devices.

Thank you for advancing the interests of small business owners across Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John L. Reynolds', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John L. Reynolds
Minnesota State Director
National Federation of Independent Business
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