



February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

TO: Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

FROM: Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

RE: SF 1598 - Digital Fair Repair (Kupec)

Chair Klein and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) supports SF 1598 (Kupec) on Digital Fair Repair. This bill would broaden the scope of entities who are able to offer diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services for digital electronic equipment. Further, the bill requires documentation – such as repair manuals – and information about parts and tools to be available on fair and reasonable terms to independent repair shops and consumers who wish to repair their own devices.

There has been much discussion this legislative session about metals needed to supply the electrification of the renewable energy economy, the presence of those metals in various electronic equipment, and the impacts on the environment and global human rights of producing those metals. SF 1598 would reduce unnecessary consumption of metals and other materials.

SF 1598 would make it easier and more affordable for people to fix electronics and other products rather than replacing them. This legislation is an opportunity to extend the life of electronic devices and reduce demand for metals. If everyone in Minnesota were able to keep their cellphones for one additional year, for example, we'd save 132,000 tons of raw material annually – the greenhouse gas equivalent of taking 10,800 cars off the road.<sup>1</sup> All mineral demand, whether for smartphones or solar panels, draws from the same pool of resources. This bill is a big step forward toward responsible stewardship of mineral resources.

In addition to supporting consumer rights and economic efficiencies, SF 1598 is an opportunity to reduce waste and increase the supply of metals available for clean energy and clean transportation. We support the passage of this bill.

Thank you,

Andrea Lovoll

Legislative Director

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. PIRG. "The Fix Is In: How our smartphones get fixed, why it's harder than it should be, and why that matters." March, 2020. [https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/07/The\\_Fix\\_Is\\_In\\_March2020\\_USPEF-6.pdf](https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/07/The_Fix_Is_In_March2020_USPEF-6.pdf)