

February 24, 2023

Senator Matt D. Klein
Chair, Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: S.F. 1598 (Digital Fair Repair Act)

Dear Chair Klein,

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board consisting of Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties, formed to address waste management and energy issues. The Partnership seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.

The Partnership appreciates the opportunity to express support for S.F. 1598, the Digital Fair Repair Act introduced by Senator Kupec.

The Partnership supports eliminating barriers to extending the life of a wide range of products as a strategy to conserve resources and prevent waste. We also support reducing the burden on residents, business operators and local governments forced to prematurely manage products containing electronic components through special and expensive management.

S.F. 1598 is an important step to allow continued use of products that otherwise would pose a disposal hazard. Maintaining the useful life of products moves us towards a circular economy and is consistent with Minnesota's solid waste management hierarchy (M.S.S. 115A).

Providing fair repair options also creates well-paying jobs in the reuse sector and saves consumer money. Our residents bring a wide range of broken and repairable products to "fix-it clinics" operated by our counties with the hopes of extending the life of their products and avoiding disposal. Limitations on what can be repaired at these clinics, or by product owners themselves, only increases unnecessary waste and expense.

We encourage the Chair and the committee to act favorably on S.F. 1598 to keep products in use in a convenient and cost-effective manner, and to reduce the impacts of unnecessary waste.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy committee members