



11 March 2025

RE: SB111, The Digital Right to Repair Act

To the Alaskan Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee:

I'm Liz Chamberlain, Director of Sustainability for iFixit, and I'm writing in strong support of SB111. iFixit is a repair company with over 115,000 step-by-step repair guides for how to fix everything from toasters to tractors, and we sell parts and tools for consumer gadgets so that people can fix things themselves. Roughly 1 in 15 Alaska residents used iFixit to help them fix stuff last year.

We also sell parts and tools wholesale to independent repair shops. In the last few years, we've started helping manufacturers get original parts to their customers—we're now the official parts distributor for Google Pixel, Microsoft Xbox, Logitech, and Valve, and we have made repair guides for Patagonia and The Home Depot.

Through our business, we hear from individuals and independent repair shops about the things that make repair difficult. Both groups complain that they have trouble finding spare parts—manufacturers of products like vacuum cleaners and fitness trackers often don't have any parts available at all. Other products have only a very limited range of parts. Tool availability, both hardware and software, also often limits repair: Many repairs get blocked by lack of access to materials.

We've been supporting electronics Right to Repair legislation around the country, and we've been glad to see laws pass in 5 states. But a surprising number of manufacturers are not yet complying with legislation in states that have passed it—and many are gating materials, refusing to provide them to customers outside the few states with repair protections. We need to keep pressure up, to make sure that Americans can get the repair access they need. Alaskans deserve the same repair access that is guaranteed by law in California, New York, Minnesota, Oregon, and Colorado.

Repair is not just good for people's pocketbooks. Extending the lifespan of consumer electronics has huge benefits for our planet: It takes 34 years for a cell phone to use as much energy as it takes to make it—not to mention the toxic wastewater tailings ponds from mining, the massive raw material use of manufacturing, or the 53 million metric tonnes of e-waste we produce each year. Keeping our stuff around for as long as possible reduces those burdens, and this bill would stop Alaskans from sending electronics to the dump prematurely.

iFixit's business gives us a unique opportunity to hear concerns from all corners of the repair world. We work with repair shops, consumers, advocates, and run repair programs for manufacturers. We strongly support SB111, which we believe is a sound compromise that works for all interests.

Thanks for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Chamberlain'.

Dr. Elizabeth Chamberlain
Director of Sustainability
iFixit