



A local non-profit that encourages and enables our community to reduce waste and increase recycling.

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April 7th, 2025

RE: HB 162 - Digital Product Repair

Green Star of Interior Alaska hereby presents this letter of support of HB 162 - Digital Product Repair.

Since the mid 1990's Green Star of Interior Alaska has been focused on reducing waste and increasing recycling in FNSB and Interior Alaska communities. Our evolution from "weekend warriors" in parking lots collecting electronics to keep them out of our landfill, to our current roles as the holder of the FNSB Electronics Recycling contract, operators of the FNSB Central Recycling Facility and Regional Coordinator of the Backhaul Alaska rural backhaul program has put us in direct contact with the ever increasing flow of e-waste generated by our communities.

When we receive electronics for recycling our first order of business is to triage the devices to see what components can be repurposed or reused. We make low-cost refurbished, tested and guaranteed devices available in Alaska. We even have an ultra-low-cost (and sometimes free) option available for low income Alaskans and non-profits through our Reboot IT Technology Grants program.

Unfortunately, our ability to repurpose many of these devices is prevented. In fact, we currently have no way to reliably and safely offer reconditioned phones or tablets due to the very issues HB 162 seeks to resolve. Desktops and laptops which might otherwise be reused also sometimes suffer the same fate - all due to walled-garden systems, inaccessibility of tools or parts, or lack of access to detailed documentation.

It is for these and many more reasons, about which we could comment for hours, that we urge you to join over 20 other states and dozens of other countries in requiring manufacturers to allow Alaskans the right to repair. Access to documentation, tools, parts and authorizations necessary to keep their devices in service is something which all Alaskans should expect when making these purchases.

We have learned the hard way that, while it may be easier to get electronics into Alaska these days, it is certainly no easier to get them out. And we know that all end-of-life electronics which are responsibly recycled must leave the state. Otherwise, they end up in our landfills, incinerators or abandoned on our lands.

Please - vote IN FAVOR OF HB 162.

Sincerely,

Joe Torma - General Manager - Green Star of Interior Alaska - gm@iagreenstar.org