

January 31, 2022

Representative Zach Stephenson  
Chair, House Commerce Policy & Finance Committee  
509 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: H.F. 1156, Digital Fair Repair Act

Dear Chair Stephenson,

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 H.F. 1156, the Digital Fair Repair Act introduced by Rep. Fischer.**

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 local residents, business operators and local governments forced to prematurely manage products containing electronic components through special and expensive management.

H.F. 1156 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 H.F. 1156 and give equipment and device owners the ability to keep these products in use in a convenient and cost-effective manner, and to reduce the impacts of unnecessary waste.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Fran Miron, Washington County  
Chair, Partnership on Waste and Energy

cc: Simon Brown, Committee Administrator  
Commissioner Debbie Goettel, Hennepin County  
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County  
House Commerce Finance & Policy Committee members