

**MEMORANDUM**

**May 3, 2023**

**Representative Zack Stephenson**                      **Senator Matt D. Klein**  
**Representative Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn**      **Senator Judy Seeberger**  
**Representative Tim O'Driscoll**                      **Senator Jordan Rasmusson**

Dear Members of the Commerce Omnibus Conference Committee (S.F. 2744/H.F. 2680):

The Partnership on Waste and Energy (Partnership) is a Joint Powers Board (Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington counties) formed to address waste management and energy issues. We seek 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 encourages you to support inclusion of the Digital Fair Repair Act in the final S.F. 2744 Conference Committee Report. We request the Report include language which allows consumers and businesses to access documents, parts and tools for the purpose of improving consumer protection, making the marketplace more competitive and reducing e-waste.

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.

The Digital Fair Repair Act 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for the Digital Fair Repair Act to keep products in use and to reduce the impacts of unnecessary waste.

Sincerely,



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