**The Maine Heritage Policy Center**

**Testimony to Oppose LD 1977**

**“An Act To Ensure a Consumer's Right To Repair Certain Electronic Products”**

Senator Herbig, Representative Daughtry and distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Adam Crepeau. I serve as a policy analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 1977.

This bill would require manufacturers of electronic equipment to make the information and equipment necessary for diagnosis and repair of electronic equipment problems available to consumers. LD 1977 also prohibits electronics manufacturers from limiting access to diagnostic equipment and tools to authorized repair providers and requires manufacturers to make this information and equipment available to independent repair providers under fair and reasonable terms.

While this bill was likely put forward in good faith, it does not allow the free market to work. Instead, it prohibits electronics manufacturers from being the only entities that can diagnose and repair their products. While proponents will rail against this sentiment by calling it monopolistic, we would argue that the electronics manufacturers have the right to control the diagnosis and repair of the products they create. After all, the products we have come to enjoy such as smartphones, game consoles and other electronics would not be around if it weren’t for them — they should be able to determine to whom they make the information, parts and tools available.

LD 1977 would essentially mandate electronic manufacturers to hand over a share of the market space they have created to independent repair providers. To be clear, The Maine Heritage Policy Center is not anti-competition — we merely believe the free market will eventually produce a better solution to this problem for consumers. The government does not need to get involved in this endeavor.

Despite the ever-increasing popularity of electronics in our society, consumers cannot be awarded the “right” to the information or tools necessary to diagnose or repair the electronics they purchase. If consumers are not satisfied with the way in which the company handles diagnostics or repairs of their devices, they should choose another manufacturer to purchase from or create another product themselves. This is a government overreach at its worst.

For those reasons, The Maine Heritage Policy Center urges the committee to vote, “Ought Not to Pass” on LD 1977. Thank you.