



**RETAIL  
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April 18, 2023

Senator Chip Curry, Chair

Representative Tiffany Roberts, Chair

Members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee

**RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 1487, An Act to Ensure That Residents of the State Have the Right to Repair Their Own Electronic Devices**

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the IDEA Committee:

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes. Maine's retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. I am here today to testify in opposition to LD 1487.

You have likely heard from a number of electronics products manufactures about their concerns with LD 1487. We agree with their concerns about the bill, but I wanted to highlight a few additional points for your consideration.

First, the Maine Legislature has done a tremendous amount of work to try to protect the privacy of consumer's personal information. Just last week, the first proposals related to consumer privacy were released, and we expect those issues to receive quite a bit of consideration. Passage of LD 1487 would undo much of that work as it would expose personal information to unauthorized users. Retailers use a variety of point of sale machines, credit card processing systems, and other proprietary technology. As drafted, LD 1487 would allow unauthorized retail shops to attempt to fix those machines. Many of those systems store personal information, intellectual property and copyright protected goods.

Second, the definition of digital electronic products is so broad that it impacts way more products than you realize. You may be thinking cell phones, but it includes farm equipment like John Deere tractors. It includes household 'smart' devices that could be used to tap a consumers personal information. It includes video game consoles whose manufacturers have

done a tremendous amount of work to develop a game console that does a really good job of prevented pirated games of being played. Ten years ago, you could probably buy a pirated video game off the street in New York City. These days, you do not see that happening and that is because of the proprietary technology embedded in the hardware and software that runs those consoles.

Additionally, a number of retailers go through quite a bit of training to become authorized repair centers. They work closely with the manufacturers to make sure their technicians are properly trained to repair their products, and to make sure certain safety requirements are not disabled.

We would urge the committee to reject this proposal and vote LD 1487 Ought Not to Pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with you.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE, President and CEO

Curtis Picard  
Retail Association of Maine  
LD 1487  
Submitting my typo corrected testimony.