

**City of Seattle
CITIZENS' TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
ADVISORY BOARD**

Recommendations on proposed Washington State Electronics Recycling Law

February 11, 2009

Dear Representative Hudgins,

The City of Seattle Citizen's Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Board (CTTAB) is submitting a letter of support for HB 1522. CTTAB makes recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on issues of community-wide interest relating to telecommunications and technology, including cable television access, technology access, and regulatory issues within the City's authority regarding wire and wireless communication systems.

The revised HB 1522 addresses a critical flaw with the new Electronics Recycling Law as interpreted by the Department of Ecology. While we agree that it is important to provide a safe method to dispose of e-waste, WAC 173-900 encourages the destruction of computers that can easily be repaired. The inclusion of the clause that only "fully functional" computers can be pulled for re-use means that thousands of easily repairable computers will instead go to a processor for destruction rather than into the hands of thousands of people who most need access to affordable computer technology.

On average, at least half of computers received by non-profit computer re-use organizations like Interconnection and Wilderness Technology Alliance can be easily repaired. For example, many individuals and companies that dispose of their computers remove the harddrives to prevent access to their data. As it stands now, these computers would not be considered "fully functional" and would need to be destroyed and gleaned for scrap metal if the processor is part of the new program.

This bill will promote and facilitate computer reuse and help underserved communities access technology. We encourage its support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Huff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Huff

CTTAB Board Chair