

ADVOCACY PLAYBOOK

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Over the past few decades everything from telephones to farm equipment has become increasingly technologically complex. As a result, it has become more difficult and involved for consumers to repair products that they purchase. Companies have taken these circumstances as a justification to impose strict conditions on products that they sell which state that consumers cannot repair products that they have purchased, and instead they must use authorized repair services. As well, limitations on repair have been used as justifications to prevent the resale of certain products in second-hand markets. Altogether, these limitations increase costs for consumers, decrease consumer choice, and can lead to long repair delays due to a limited number of authorized repair services.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

One of the industries most impacted by these new restrictions on consumers ability to repair products they own is agriculture. Agriculture requires significant capital investments in increasingly high-tech products such as tractors and other farm equipment. However, farm equipment retailers such as John Deere have argued that they can prevent farmers from repairing equipment they have purchased. These companies have even gone so far as to create proprietary software which is the only possible method to repair their products. These repair restrictions create high costs for farmers who may not have ability to access authorized repair services in a timely and cost-effective manner.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you want to get involved and fight for a federal right-to-repair, one useful way you push for change is by reaching out to your member of Congress (if you are not sure who that is, use this website: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>). Whether you plan to call, send an email, or write a letter to your member of Congress, it is useful to include a story about how a right-to-repair will affect you, your family, and your community. Each call, email, and letter an office receives is tallied up and considered when your Representative is deciding whether or not to support a bill, and extra weight is given to those contacts which include personal stories. By lending the voice of Grangers across the country in support of a federal right-to-repair, together we can push Congress to continue to move the bill forward and create a system which benefits both the climate and farmers.

