



Right to Repair

Policy Fact Sheet

Farmers and ranchers deserve the Right to Repair their own farm equipment or to do business with the mechanic of their choosing. But farm equipment manufacturers are standing in the way.

Modern farm equipment requires software tools to diagnose and complete certain repairs. Manufacturers have withheld full access to those tools, giving farmers no choice but to take equipment back to the dealership. This reduces competition, leading to inflated service prices and service delays during tight planting and harvest windows. A recent report estimates this costs U.S. farmers more than \$4 billion per year.

National Farmers Union (NFU) supports federal Right to Repair legislation, such as the Agricultural Right to Repair Act (H.R.5604), that would give all farmers and ranchers access, on fair and reasonable terms, to the tools and information required to make timely farm equipment repairs. We also support state-level action. In April 2023, Colorado became the first state to enact an agricultural Right to Repair law, and similar bills have been introduced in many states.



FAIRNESS FOR FARMERS

A Farmers Union Project

Opponents have made many misleading claims to undermine the movement for fair access to independent repair. Farm equipment manufacturers and dealers that oppose Right to Repair laws have wrongly claimed that independent repair undermines emission compliance requirements under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Act (CAA). In response to these claims, [**NFU wrote to the head**](#) of EPA seeking clarity on EPA's position on the Right to Repair and misleading CAA claims. In August 2023, [**the head of EPA replied**](#) to NFU outlining the agency's clear support for farmers' and consumers' Right to Repair and refuted the false CAA accusations. The message was clear: independent repair does not facilitate emissions tampering.

Enforcement of existing antitrust laws can also help. In May 2021, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said it would devote more enforcement resources to combat unlawful repair restrictions. NFU has encouraged the FTC to take action by filing a complaint with the FTC against John Deere for illegal repair restrictions, and by formally asking the FTC to initiate a rulemaking to protect farmers' and all consumers' Right to Repair.

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