



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 11, 2020

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Letter of Information for HB 1124 - Consumer Protection - Right to Repair**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this letter of concern/information for HB 1124. This bill requires an original equipment manufacturer, on fair and reasonable terms, to make available to an independent repair provider or owner of digital electronic equipment any documentation, parts, tools, or updates to information or embedded software. It also requires, as it applies to equipment that contains a security-related function, any documentation, tools, parts, or updates needed to reset the lock or function when disabled.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- We support legislation requiring agricultural equipment manufacturers to make available the necessary documents, software and information to allow independent shops and individuals to repair equipment.

After talking to farm equipment manufacturers, they are rolling out a program to offer a Right-to-Repair program that includes documents, software and information this year. **Instead of pushing for legislation, Maryland Farm Bureau has agreed to work with the different equipment manufactures to assist with regional showcases for the dealers to rollout this new Right-to-Repair program and information this summer.**

Since this bill includes more than just farm equipment, Maryland Farm Bureau would request an amendment to exempt farm related equipment if the bill were to move forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson

Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396