

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Scott Conklin
Chairman of Commerce
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
314 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202077
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2077

The Honorable Joe Emrick
Republican Chair of Commerce
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
108 Ryan Office Building
P.O. Box 202137
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2137

Dear Representatives Conklin and Emrick,

I write on behalf of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) members to address the informational hearing to be held on Monday, March 25 regarding right to repair. PFB is the Commonwealth's largest grassroots agricultural organization with over 26,000 members that operate primarily small and mid-sized farms.

Right to repair has been an important issue for our members for years and they asked us to find a private-sector solution. At American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) 2023 Annual Convention, AFBF President Zippy Duvall signed the first [memorandum of understanding \(MOU\) with John Deere](#). This was a historic step to ensuring farmers' and ranchers' right to repair their tractors and other implements. Following the MOU with John Deere, AFBF also signed agreements with [CNH Industrial](#) (which includes Case IH and New Holland), [AGCO](#), [Kubota](#) and [CLAAS](#). Combined, the five MOUs cover approximately three-quarters of the U.S. market for tractors and agricultural machinery. The MOUs have allowed manufacturers to protect their intellectual property while ensuring farmers and independent repair shops are able to make reasonable repairs. The MOUs provide farmers and independent repair shops to have access to:

- Diagnostic and repair codes and their meaning
- Manuals (Operator, Parts, Service)
- Product Guides
- Directly purchase diagnostic tools from the manufacturers
- Assistance from the manufacturers when ordering parts and products.

When a piece of equipment breaks down it can cause major disruptions on the farm, which is why it is so important farmers have access to the tools needed to fix the problem as soon as possible. Notably, through the MOUs, AFBF has established a direct path for all farmers and ranchers, whether or not PFB members to provide feedback or report issues they may be having with a manufacturer that signed an MOU by using a Right to Repair Reporting Form available at <https://www.fb.org/files/FORM-Manufacturer-Issue-Reporting-Form.pdf>. Again, this is not limited to just Farm Bureau members, but all farmers may use this process to assist in resolving any repair issues that they may have if an issue cannot be resolved at the dealer level.

In closing, PFB believes that market-based solutions are the most effective in these circumstances. There is no benefit to having a fragmented system of right to repair legislation across the country. These national MOUs are the solution. PFB respectfully asks the committee to allow these agreements to prove themselves, and for them to serve as a model for other manufacturers in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "H".

Chris Hoffman
President