



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 3998 (Senator Boyle) / Assembly Bill 6068 (Assemblyman Morelle)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE GENERAL BUSINESS LAW, IN RELATION TO THE SALE OF CERTAIN DIAGNOSTIC AND REPAIR INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Date: 1/29/2016

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express our support for the "Fair Repair" Act. If enacted into law, this bill will allow access to necessary diagnostic and repair information that was previously proprietary only to the manufacturer.

New York State is home to over 35,000 farms, and the agriculture industry contributes significantly to the overall economic health of the state. Farmers depend on their equipment to feed animals, plant and harvest crops and manage day-to-day operations. When equipment breaks, farmers need to fix it as soon as possible. As a result, farmers rely on having access to critical electronic repair technology. In the 21st century, farm technology has expanded from the traditional tractor and plow to farmers using high-tech equipment, such as GPS systems and robotic milkers.

The Fair Repair Act will ensure that when something breaks down on the farm, owners can repair their own equipment without violating fine print "tying agreements" that restrict consumers from repairing their product, unless they are working directly with the manufacturer.

When a consumer purchases a product, they should have the right to customize, repair or even resell their equipment without having to ask for permission from the manufacturer. Currently, copyright law protects both consumers and manufacturers from violating the ideas and technology of the product itself. The automotive industry, nationally, agreed on the Automotive Right to Repair Act in 2014 and we believe that the State legislature should follow the strategy they have set. Passing this legislation will allow not only farmers, but all residents of New York, to take ownership and fix problems as they arise.

New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.