

SUPPORT HB 1324

Topic: Waste

Bill Patron: Delegate Franklin

OVERVIEW:

HB 1324 requires an original equipment manufacturer of agricultural equipment, or parts for such equipment, to make available to owners of such equipment and to independent repair providers, on fair and reasonable terms, documentation, parts, and tools for purposes of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of such equipment.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Farmers should have the ability to fix their equipment or use a local repair shop.
- Modern farm equipment relies on software based diagnostics to identify issues, reset error codes, and repair equipment.
- Unfortunately, manufacturers restrict access to basic diagnostic tools and farmers must use authorized dealerships to fix issues.
- Rural farmers do not typically have easy access to the dealerships so fixing equipment leads to higher costs, long wait times and loss of crop.
- Farmers should be able to repair their equipment similar to how drivers can fix their cars or take them to a local repair shop.
- Farm right to repair would have several environmental benefits:
 - Farmers would be able to better maintain their equipment which improves efficiency and extends the equipment's lifespan.
 - Longer lifespans for equipment would reduce e waste and resource extraction.
 - Support for local repair options would increase sustainability in farming communities.



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