

February 10, 2025

Memorandum of Support for Right to Repair / Fair Repair Legislation H5246, H5159, and H5017

On behalf of U.S. PIRG and our members, we are writing to express our support for the group of Right to Repair Bills being considered on February 11, 2025 which require fair access to parts, tools, service information and repair software for several categories of products. We believe this legislation is a common-sense step to cut consumer costs and decrease waste by empowering choice in the repair marketplace.

Manufacturers are using their power in the marketplace to make things harder to repair, and as a result we generate way too much waste. "Right to Repair" laws are an important tool to keep electronics in use and off the scrap heap by bringing more competition to the repair marketplace. Here are some of the additional reasons we support Right to Repair:

- More choices for consumers. Many people don't live close to an outlet for the original
 manufacturer -- whether that's the Apple store to replace a battery or the John Deere Dealership
 to fix a tractor. Consumers should have more repair choices, which are currently stifled by big
 corporate manufacturers.
- **Repair saves families big.** Our <u>report</u> shows that American households could save \$382 dollars per year by repairing their electronics and appliances instead of replacing them.
- Greater availability of affordable used devices. Many people can't afford the latest gadgets. If
 we extended the life of tablets, laptops and other electronics, it would allow more consumers
 more access to these important technologies.
- **STEM education.** How can we train the next generation of engineers if we block people from having basic information about how the technology in our lives works? Repair teaches people about technology, and inspires and empowers a new generation of entrepreneurs and inventors.
- More opportunities for small businesses. More access to repair parts, tools and information means more opportunities for local small businesses to grow or new businesses to start.
 Employees would gain valuable STEM skills as well.
- It's a fully vetted policy. Right to Repair policies have passed in numerous states, with the support of manufacturers in many cases. The FTC studied the policy for years, and announced unanimous bipartisan support. It's time to expand these rights to all.

We urge you to make sure that your state passes Right to Repair this session.

Sincerely,

Nathan Proctor, Senior National Right to Repair Campaign Director U.S. PIRG