



February 2, 2022

Memorandum of Support for Right to Repair / Fair Repair Legislation.

On behalf of U.S. PIRG and our members, we are writing to express our support for HF 1156, the Digital Fair Repair Act, to require fair access to parts, tools, service information and repair software. We believe this legislation is a common-sense step to cut consumer costs and decrease waste.

Manufacturers are using their power in the marketplace to make things harder to repair, and as a result we generate way too much waste. Electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream on the planet and our ability to process waste is not keeping up. "Right to Repair" laws are an important tool to slow the creation of waste by bringing more competition to the repair marketplace and allowing consumers to keep their stuff in use and out of the trash. 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 [report](#) shows that American households could save \$330 dollars per year by repairing their electronics and appliances instead of replacing them.
- **Less waste.** According to our joint report "[Recharge Repair](#)," Americans dispose of some 141 million cell phones each year. Many of those devices could be used again, but simple repairs can become impossible without the proper tools and information.
- **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 business.** 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.

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