

H.R. XXXX — Rural Equipment Freedom Act

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SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “**Rural Equipment Freedom Act.**”

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

To guarantee the right of individuals and independent technicians to repair agricultural and industrial equipment, and to prohibit manufacturers from restricting access to essential repair tools, documentation, and software.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

- “**Covered Equipment**” means any machinery used in agriculture, construction, or industrial operations, including but not limited to tractors, combines, loaders, and irrigation systems.
- “**Repair Materials**” means service manuals, schematics, diagnostic software, firmware, calibration tools, and proprietary connectors necessary for maintenance or repair.
- “**Reasonable Price**” means a price not exceeding 120% of the manufacturer’s documented production and distribution cost for the item or service.

SECTION 4. RIGHT TO REPAIR REQUIREMENTS

(a) All manufacturers of Covered Equipment sold in the United States shall:

- (1) Make Repair Materials available to equipment owners and independent technicians
- (2) Provide access to diagnostic software and firmware updates necessary for repair
- (3) Offer physical tools and proprietary connectors at cost or a Reasonable Price
- (4) Publish service manuals and schematics in a searchable online format

(b) Manufacturers may not:

- (1) Use software locks, remote shutdowns, or digital rights management (DRM) to prevent lawful repair
- (2) Require exclusive servicing contracts or subscriptions for basic maintenance
- (3) Charge excessive fees for access to Repair Materials

SECTION 5. FARM EQUIPMENT SHUTDOWN OVERRIDE

- (a) All Covered Equipment must include a physical or software-based override that allows the owner to bypass remote shutdown or lockout features in emergency or field conditions.
- (b) Manufacturers shall not disable or restrict override functionality without documented safety justification reviewed by the Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

- (a) The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) shall enforce this Act under its unfair and deceptive practices authority.
- (b) Violations shall be subject to:
 - (1) Civil penalties up to \$50,000 per incident
 - (2) Mandatory restitution to affected equipment owners
 - (3) Public listing of noncompliant manufacturers
- (c) Whistleblower protections shall be extended to employees reporting internal violations.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect 180 days after enactment. Manufacturers shall have 90 days to publish compliance plans.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Act is found unconstitutional or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.



Legislative References

- **15 U.S. Code § 45** – FTC authority over unfair or deceptive acts
- **7 U.S. Code § 2204** – USDA oversight of agricultural equipment standards
- **Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)** – Exemptions for repair and diagnostics
- **U.S. Copyright Office Rulemaking (2021–2024)** – Right to Repair exemptions
- **State-level Right to Repair laws** – Massachusetts, New York, Minnesota, Colorado