



Freedom for Agricultural Repair and Maintenance Act (FARM Act)

Led in the Senate by: Sens. Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.); John Fetterman (D-Pa.)

Introduced in the House by: Reps. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA-03); Joe Neguse (D-CO-02)

Background:

As modern farm and agricultural equipment increasingly rely on advanced technological software, ensuring farmers can access low-cost repair services to maintain operations is vital. However, large equipment manufacturing companies have [monopolized](#) the equipment repair market by refusing to let farmers and independent repair shops repair their own equipment. Instead, manufacturing companies are forcing farmers to spend valuable time away from their farms to obtain repair services solely at authorized [dealerships](#), which are often hundreds of miles away from their farms.

Manufacturing companies' exploitation of the equipment repair market also creates undue financial hardships for farmers, leaving them without vital functioning equipment for long periods of time. In 2023, U.S. farmers lost an estimated total of [\\$4.2 billion](#) a year as a result of these practices: \$3 billion lost when a tractor is out of service, and \$1.2 billion in excess repair costs. Establishing a federal right to repair is essential to lowering costs for farmers and reducing burdensome restrictions preventing farmers and independent repair shops from fixing their own equipment.

Legislation:

The *Freedom for Agricultural Repair and Maintenance Act (FARM Act)* give farmers the right to repair their own equipment and restores competition in the agricultural repair market. The *FARM Act* requires farm equipment manufacturers to share documentation, parts, and software with farmers and independent repairers, giving farmers back the autonomy to fix their own equipment and support their farms.

The bicameral legislation also aims to boost competition in the agricultural market by allowing permitted owners and independent repair companies development software and other tools to diagnose, maintain, upgrade, or repair farm equipment without violating copyright laws. Additionally, the bill:

- Establishes a comprehensive framework for the right to repair farm equipment.
- Requires Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) to make available, on fair and reasonable terms to any owner or independent repair provider, any documentation, part, software, firmware, or tool intended for use in order to diagnose, maintain, upgrade, reprogram, or repair farm equipment.
- Gives the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) the authority to enforce the requirements and promulgate rules as necessary to carry out the requirements' implementation.

Supporting Organizations: The *FARM Act* is endorsed by the American Economic Liberties Project, FULU Foundation, National Farmers Union (NFU), and the United States Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG).