



March 12, 2026

Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman, House Corporations Committee  
Room 101 - State House  
82 Smith St  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Agriculture Equipment Right to Repair Act (H7476)**

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Dear Chair Solomon, Vice Chairs O'Brien and Caldwell, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nathan Riggins, Director of Government Affairs with Associated Equipment Distributors, or AED, the trade association comprised of mostly family-owned small-to-medium-sized businesses in the equipment distribution industry. I am here to echo my colleagues' respectful opposition to the Agriculture Equipment Right to Repair Act.

Equipment dealers in Rhode Island and across the country are united in opposing this legislation because while the bill would undermine the structure of the current repair ecosystem in the state and cause increased delays in parts servicing, the bill is also unnecessary given the current access that customers have to the parts they need.

As I mentioned previously, AED members support customers' ability to repair their machinery and make available diagnostic tools, repair information, parts, and remote customer support. Equipment dealers want to do everything possible to keep a machine running, because shut-down equipment means lost time and money. That sometimes means repairs completed by a dealership service technician, the customer, or a third-party

provider. In fact, a majority of most dealerships' parts sales occur over the counter, meaning that the customer purchases the replacement part and makes repairs themselves.

This legislation would also cause conflicts and confusion among industry partners given the functioning nationwide Memoranda of Understanding between manufacturers, dealers, and the American Farm Bureau Federation. These MOUs give farmers access to error codes, specialty tools and information on how to fix the problem. Farmers and independent repair facilities can also directly purchase diagnostic tools from the manufacturers, which enables them to repair equipment on or near the farm and get back to work quickly. This legislation could potentially cause state-by-state regulatory conflict that would upend an already successful MOU model.

As we have shown, the Agriculture Right to Repair Act is a solution in search of a problem and will only destabilize an already well functioning repair ecosystem in state. Most concerning, the bill's "fair and reasonable terms" mandate—requiring manufacturers to provide parts, tools, and documentation on the same terms offered to authorized dealers—would force manufacturers into direct competition with their independent dealers. This would effectively put many equipment dealers out of business, and Rhode Islanders could lose their quickest and most reliable source for parts through their local dealerships. Instead, customers would be forced online or out of state to get the parts they need to service their machines, causing more delays, lost time and lost money.

The issues with this legislation we have described today would undermine the parts distribution market, introduce pricing uncertainty, and weaken safeguards—without improving repair outcomes. For these reasons, AED respectfully urges you to issue an unfavorable report on H. 7476.

Thank you for your time.



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