



### **Support Pennsylvania's Right-to-Repair Act: HB 1512 and SB 833**

Pennsylvania is moving toward a more sustainable and transparent future for electronics management with the introduction of the **Right-to-Repair Act. House Bill 1512** and its companion, **Senate Bill 833**, aim to break the monopoly on device maintenance by requiring original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to provide equipment owners and independent repair providers with the same resources available to authorized repair channels. This legislation is a critical win for waste diversion, as it tackles the "built-to-fail" design cycle that currently drives thousands of tons of electronics into Pennsylvania's waste stream.

The Act establishes a clear framework for transparency and accessibility in the electronics market. Under these bills, OEMs must provide:

- **Documentation and Schematics:** Manufacturers are required to make manuals and diagnostic guides available on fair and reasonable terms.
- **Parts and Tools:** OEMs must offer the same replacement parts and specialized tools used by their own technicians to owners and independent shops.
- **Software and Firmware:** The bills mandate that necessary software updates and digital tools for diagnosis and repair must be accessible, ensuring that devices remain functional long after their initial purchase.

For the professional recycling community, the Right-to-Repair Act is a powerful tool for waste reduction. By ensuring that digital electronic equipment can be maintained and repaired, we can shift from a "disposable" model to a circular one. Key impacts include:

- **Preventing "Parts Pairing":** The Act prohibits OEMs from using software to block the installation of functional replacement parts. This allows recyclers and refurbishers to salvage high-quality components from end-of-life devices to repair others, maximizing resource recovery.

- **Reducing E-Waste Volume:** When repair is affordable and accessible, devices stay in the hands of consumers longer, significantly slowing the influx of e-waste into our landfills and processing facilities.
- **Empowering Local Business:** Independent repair shops and refurbishers—many of whom are key partners in the recycling ecosystem—will gain the legal right to service modern equipment without manufacturer-imposed roadblocks.

To ensure these rights are upheld, the legislation establishes civil penalties for violations, ranging from **\$1,000 to \$10,000** per infraction. While the bill includes reasonable exclusions for trade secrets and specific industries like motor vehicles and medical devices, it sets a high standard for consumer electronics and appliances sold in the Commonwealth.

The Right-to-Repair Act is a common-sense solution to Pennsylvania's growing e-waste challenge. By restoring the right to fix what we own, we can protect our environment, save consumers money, and support a more resilient recycling infrastructure.

**PROP encourages its members and all environmental stakeholders to contact their State Senators regarding HB 1512 and SB 833. Urge them to vote YES on Right to Repair.**