

Office of the Mayor

9 June 2023

VIA EMAIL

Hon. François-Philippe Champagne PC MP
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Via email: ministerofisi-ministredeisi@ised-isde.gc.ca

Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau PC MP
Minister of Agriculture
Via email: Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ministers:

On behalf of the Council of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, we are writing to you pursuant to the enclosed motion to endorse the right-to-repair movement and to call on your government to expedite the promised consultations to enshrine this principle in consumer-protection law, with specific consultations and measures related to supporting the agricultural sector undertaken.

Right to Repair is a simple environmental and consumer protection measure: it ensures consumers are able to reasonably access repairs to electronic and other devices at a fair price, rather than creating a monopoly through technology companies only being able to repair their own products. This measure will also help reduce waste by combatting planned obsolescence, where companies make products that are only intended to last for a period of some years, and are not really repairable.

Further, farmers and growers are intimately familiar with the particular nuances of this issue when it comes to increasingly high-tech agricultural equipment. As the “soup and salad bowl of Canada”, Bradford West Gwillimbury is home to many farmers and growers, so we know firsthand how important an issue these consultations will be.

Our Council has shown in recent years that we are at the forefront of advocating for important environmental protections, including the Freshwater Action Fund, and we are grateful to our new Green Initiatives Committee for recommending this current piece of advocacy to protect the environment and consumers.

A copy of the motion is enclosed. We would be happy to meet with you or your representatives to discuss this further.

Sincerely yours,



James Leduc
Mayor

CC: John Barlow, MP Foothills
Rick Perkins, MP South Shore—St. Margarets
Alistair MacGregor, MP Cowichan—Malahat—Langford
Rachel Blaney, MP North Island—Powell River
Scot Davidson, MP York—Simcoe
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario's Municipal Councils
Ontario's Conservation Authorities

At its Regular meeting of Council held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council approved the following resolution:

Resolution: 2023-199

Moved: Councillor Verkaik

Seconded: Councillor Harper

Whereas the “right-to-repair” movement seeks to ensure consumers of electronic products, including mobile phones and computers, as well as agricultural equipment, are able to make routine fixes to damaged products without having to rely on the manufacturer and to affordably make such repairs; and

Whereas this movement and efforts against “planned obsolescence” seeks to ensure affordability for consumers and to protect our environment by reducing electronic waste; and

Whereas the agricultural sector has unique needs related to specialized electronic farm equipment and the ability to make repairs in a timely and affordable manner, especially during the growing season; and

Further to a commitment in the 2023 federal budget that “the government will work to implement a right to repair, with the aim of introducing a targeted framework for home appliances and electronics in 2024. The government will launch consultations this summer, including on the right to repair and the interoperability of farming equipment, and work closely with provinces and territories to advance the implementation of a right to repair” (p. 38); and

Be it therefore resolved that the committee recommend Council endorse the right-to-repair movement through a letter from the Mayor and Green Initiatives Committee Chair to call on the federal government to expedite the promised consultations to enshrine this principle in consumer-protection law, with specific consultations and measures related to supporting the agricultural sector undertaken; and

That a copy of this resolution and letter be shared with the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development; the Minister of Agriculture and their critics; and the Member of Parliament for York—Simcoe; and to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Ontario’s Municipal Councils, with a request for their endorsement of same.

Result: CARRIED.