



DECEMBER 2020

## **AGRICULTURAL RIGHT TO REPAIR AND THE RIGHT TO INNOVATE**

Dear Sirs

We have been working on the right to repair issue and the right to innovate issue here in Canada. As a company owned by farmers, we are invested in supplying innovative products for farmers in Canada and around the world [including AU and NZ].

An emerging issue for short line Agricultural equipment manufacturers, is the increasing use of digital locks and key to prevent both farmer private repairs and short line equipment integrations.

In our work with Canadian provincial and federal government, we have been citing the work being done in AU by government towards useful legislation that could be effected to mitigate the digital locks and keys challenges that we face as consumers and industry.

In July 2020, we saw for the first time in the history of agriculture, a product enter the market that was specifically designed to prevent both independent repair, or interoperability with any other brand of implement. The John Deere X9 combine was launched with proprietary, encrypted and authorized use only digital handshaking [digital locks and keys]. John Deere has made it known to us that they will not open this platform up to any other company for participation.

It is clear that we cannot depend on the benevolence of dominant players in industry to continue an open relationship with consumers [farmers] and industry [short line]. This push for "brand purity" has been going on for more than a decade. This year they pushed over the top. Legislation is the only way to stop such anti-competitive practices. We will continue to support all efforts in this direction, until a remedy is realized.

With regards,

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