

July 22, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chairman, Financial Services and
General Government Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
Ranking Member, Financial Services and
General Government Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Quigley, and Ranking Member Womack:

We strongly support language included in the FY2022 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill report, which calls for a Committee briefing from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on actions taken by the agency related to repair restrictions since publication of the *Nixing the Fix* report in May.

The FTC published an extensive report that concluded “there is scant evidence to support manufacturers’ justifications for repair restrictions” and announced that the FTC “stands ready to work with legislators... to ensure that consumers have choices when they need to repair products.” Additionally, President Biden, on July 9, released an Executive Order (EO) on *Promoting Competition in the American Economy*. Included among the 72 initiatives in the EO was a call for the FTC to curb “unfair anticompetitive restrictions on third party repair or self-repair of items.” On July 21, the FTC unanimously adopted a new policy statement on *Repair Restrictions Imposed by Manufacturers and Sellers* “aimed at manufacturers’ practices that make it extremely difficult for purchasers to repair their products or shop around for other service providers to do it for them.”

Momentum continues to grow for actions that promote increased repair choice. Consumers deserve to decide where and how to repair products from smartphones and laptops to appliances, cars, and farm equipment. Competition drives lower repairs costs and increases access to repair, especially for those living in rural communities. Repair is also an essential way to reduce electronic waste.

We appreciate the Committee’s continued commitment to robust consumer repair rights.

Sincerely, the undersigned,

American Property Casualty Insurance
Association
Automotive Body Parts Association
Brooklyn Law Incubator & Policy Clinic
Certified Automotive Parts Association
Consumer Access to Repair (CAR) Coalition
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
Niskanen Center

National Association of Mutual Insurance
Companies
Public Citizen
Public Knowledge
Re:Create
SecuRepairs
The Repair Association
U.S. PIRG