

Minister of Innovation,
Science and Industry



Ministre de l'Innovation,
des Sciences et de l'Industrie

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5

August 9, 2023

Charlotte Madden
City Clerk
City of Port Colborne
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8

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brenda.heidebrecht@portcolborne.ca

Dear Charlotte Madden:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 4, 2023, co-addressed to the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, former Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, in which you share the City of Port Colborne's resolution supporting the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury's resolution regarding the right-to-repair movement.

The Government of Canada is committed to establishing a framework that would support Canadian consumers' right to repair, which would help extend the life of home appliances and address the environmental impacts of unnecessary waste. Recently, Budget 2023 reconfirmed this commitment and expanded its scope to include measures on the right to repair and on the interoperability of farming equipment.

In terms of actions to date on developing this framework, the federal government conducted a public consultation in summer 2021 to modernize the *Copyright Act* and received submissions from stakeholders, including from the farming sector, on the right to repair. One of the primary issues raised in this consultation was how best to remove obstacles to allow for repair and interoperability under the *Copyright Act*.

Currently, there are two private Members' bills in Parliament related to the Government's commitment to remove copyright barriers to repair and that could contribute to the extended life cycle of products. Bill C-244, *An Act to amend the Copyright Act (diagnosis, maintenance and repair)*, would ensure that circumventing technological protection measures, or digital locks, is permitted

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under the copyright framework when repairing a product. Bill C-294, *An Act to amend the Copyright Act (interoperability)*, would allow making a computer program—or a device in which it is embedded—interoperable with any other computer program, device, or component.

Our aim is to allow Canadians the flexibility to choose their best options for repairing their own devices and equipment while furthering our environmental goals and supporting competitiveness in the commercial marketplace. The Government will pursue further stakeholder engagement in the near future to acquire insight into other aspects of the right-to-repair movement as our work toward developing a broader framework continues.

Once again, thank you for writing, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Champagne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, P.C., M.P.
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