Right to Repair: Why It Matters to Car Owners & Independent Repair Shops

When you own your vehicle, should you also have the right to decide who repairs it?

That question is at the heart of the ongoing Right to Repair debate in Washington. As vehicles become increasingly dependent on sophisticated computers, software, and connected technology, access to the information needed to diagnose and repair them has become an important issue for vehicle owners and the automotive repair industry.

At **Mt. Airy Service Center**, we support a simple principle: **vehicle owners should have the freedom to choose where their vehicles are serviced and repaired—whether that's an independent repair shop, a dealership, or even their own driveway.**

Today's Cars Are Computers on Wheels

Modern vehicles are far more technologically advanced than they were just a generation ago. Today's technicians rely on diagnostic software, electronic service information, specialized tools, and vehicle-generated data to identify problems and perform many repairs.



The proposed federal Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair (REPAIR) Act, H.R. 1566, addresses access to vehicle-generated data, and critical repair information. The legislation would restrict manufacturers from using certain technological or legal barriers that prevent vehicle owners and independent repair businesses from accessing information needed to diagnose, maintain, and repair vehicles.

Why Right to Repair Matters

For consumers, the issue ultimately comes down to **choice and access**. Independent repair shops have long provided an alternative to dealership service departments. But as vehicles become more software-driven, independent technicians need appropriate access to the technology and information necessary to continue servicing them. Supporters of Right to Repair legislation argue that maintaining this access helps preserve competition, consumer choice, and a strong independent automotive aftermarket. Industry supporters have also argued that restrictions on repair information can affect repair costs and availability.

Manufacturers and other stakeholders have raised issues during the broader debate involving areas such as intellectual property, cybersecurity, safety, and the handling of vehicle data. Those questions are part of the continuing discussion over how federal repair-access rules should be structured. Congress.gov

What Could Be at Stake?

At Mt. Airy Service Center, we believe protecting reasonable access to repair information is important for several reasons. It helps preserve your ability to choose who works on your vehicle, supports competition between independent shops and dealerships, and allows independent automotive businesses to continue investing in the equipment and training required to service newer vehicles.

It also affects local businesses. Independent repair facilities aren't just part of the automotive industry - they're employers, taxpayers, and members of the communities they serve.

Your Car. Your Choice.

Technology will continue changing the way automobiles are diagnosed, maintained, and repaired. What shouldn't disappear along the way is the vehicle owner's ability to choose **who performs that work**.

!!!Send a pre-populated message to your local legislator!!!

Whether you prefer your dealership, a trusted independent repair shop, or doing some repairs yourself, we believe that choice should remain yours.

What do you think? Should independent repair shops and vehicle owners have access to the repair information and tools necessary to service today's vehicles?

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