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Date: February 21, 2022
To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: HB 562 – Consumer Protection – Right to Repair – Farm Equipment - **SUPPORT**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware supports HB 562 and urges a favorable committee report.

HB 562 would require a farm equipment manufacturer to make available certain documentation, updates or information to an independent report provider or owner of farm equipment.

This bill offers farmers the choice of who can repair their farm equipment, including themselves. Just like automobiles, modern farm equipment has been built with some of the latest technology and computerization. And just like automobiles, farmers should have the ability to decide who will service their equipment – not always having to go through the manufacturer or dealership. This is especially true during harvest time or for chicken growers, during layout time when equipment is being used to prepare chicken houses. If manufacturers do not have adequate service technicians, even one day's delay can impact farmers.

This bill would require that the tools needed to service the technology are available to third-party repair providers, including farmers, on a fair and reasonable basis. It is likely that many farmers will continue to have their equipment serviced by the manufacturer, just like car dealerships hold a majority of servicing for automobiles. But during the busy times of harvest, farmers need choice.

We urge a **favorable** vote on HB 562.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at porter@dcachicken.com or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.