

## Equipment Security = Farm Security

Good Afternoon Economic Matters Committee, Chair Wilson and committee members.

My name is Jenell McHenry and it is a true honor to be here today and support House Bill 1345. My husband and I have been truly impacted from not having consumer protection on our farm and this has encouraged us as Young Farmers to be the voice for our industry and help future farmers not face the challenges we have endured.

My husband Joey McHenry and I live in Kent County, Maryland with our ag driven 3-and-a-half-year-old son. Where we calf beef cattle and raise them to feed our community. We also are very diversified with a commercial trucking company, custom farming operation, and grow corn, wheat, soybeans, barley, and hay.

In April of 2021 we purchased a telehandler from our local dealership to grow our beef business and feed our cattle. It was a need in our business structure. We put 20% down as young farmers and began monthly payments for this piece of equipment. Shortly after purchasing this telehandler, we noticed several complications. Soon we found out the equipment was built during COVID overseas and was not overlooked by a mechanic before being delivered to our farm. Within the first year, the machine was only able to operate for maybe 80 days. The biggest challenge was the fact parts took weeks to come in to repair the equipment. With barely any use of the machine, we continued to make the payments. In the meantime, the warranty covered a majority of the issues, but we had to pay for transportation of the machine back to the dealer and/or travel fees from the dealer to the farm. The travel fee of \$400 plus added up quickly. We also had to rent a piece of machinery from the dealership for certain parts of our business, which was not cheap!

Furthermore, this issue was a safety concern for our employees and family. When the machine stopped it would lock up in any position and could not be moved in any capacity. We would usually have to drag it out of the way because there was no signs of an issue about to start.

Now in 2025, we finally got the machine in a workable place as this has been a battle for the first two years.

We talked to the dealership; we talked to the equipment manufacturer and there was NOTHING they would do to help. The dealerships' hands were mainly tied, so the blame is not truly set on them. It was a very aggravating time for us to go through this and very discouraging for young people to grow their farm or farm in general.

This bill is simply a placeholder for situations like our own. To help farmers continue farming by having the right options when needed. This piece of equipment was truly a lemon and has impacted our business.

## Example of Issues

2 New Computers Systems

Panels and bolts loose

Missing bolts

A number of Software updates

Oil pan sheared off and had a hole in it

5<sup>th</sup> wheel plate was incorrect