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March 10, 2026

To: The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

From: Karen S. Straughn  
Consumer Protection Division.

Re: House Bill 1395 – Consumer Protection – Agriculture Equipment Warranties  
(SUPPORT)

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The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General submits the following written testimony to support House Bill 1395 submitted by Delegates Jay A. Jacobs, et al. House Bill 1395 creates a lemon law for new agricultural equipment and provides that if repairs under the warranty are needed for something that substantially impairs the value of the equipment, and the manufacturer is unable to make repairs, it shall replace the equipment or refund the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for use of the vehicle and any damage caused by the consumer.

A lemon law for new agricultural equipment is designed to protect farmers and ranchers when newly purchased machinery repeatedly fails to perform as warranted. Unlike many other consumer products, farm equipment is mission-critical and time-sensitive. Planting and harvesting operate within narrow weather windows. If a new tractor, combine, or planter fails repeatedly, it may cause losses that far exceed the equipment's daily rental value. In addition, agricultural equipment is very expensive, so farmers typically finance these purchases, making it difficult to obtain a replacement in the event the equipment fails.

The remedies currently provided under agricultural manufacturer warranties are often insufficient. Repairs may not permanently solve the defect and downtime compensation is usually inadequate. In addition, there is an imbalance of power since manufacturers generally

have greater legal resources as well as greater control over diagnostic tools and parts. Generally, individual farmers lack comparable leverage, leaving them unable to easily repair or replace a faulty product.

A healthy agricultural environment supports economic stability. Equipment failures can ripple beyond a single farm - local suppliers, seasonal labor and food supply chains are all negatively affected when a farmer is unable to properly tend to his crops. However, strong consumer protections in this sector will help maintain broader economic stability.

For the reasons set forth, the Consumer Protection Division requests that the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report on this bill.

cc: The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs  
The Honorable Terry L. Baker  
The Honorable Barry Beauchamp  
The Honorable Jason C. Buckel  
The Honorable Barrie S. Ciliberti  
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist  
The Honorable Kevin B. Hornberger  
The Honorable Seth A Howard  
The Honorable Thomas S. Hutchinson  
The Honorable Susan K. McComas  
The Honorable Todd B. Morgan  
The Honorable Teresa E. Reilly  
The Honorable Kent Roberson  
The Honorable Stuart Michael Schmidt, Jr.  
The Honorable William J. Wivell  
Members, Economic Matters Committee