



Wayne Seltzer of Boulder's U-Fix-It Clinic demonstrates some common repairs after the signing of the new Right to Repair bill. Credit: Ted Gotwals

## BEYOND PLASTIC

# We have the right to fix our electronics in Colorado

On May 28, Gov. Jared Polis signed Colorado's third Right to Repair law in three years, cementing Colorado's leadership on consumers' repair rights. Building upon successful efforts in Minnesota, California and Oregon over the last year, the new Colorado law covers nearly all consumer and business electronics.

"This action makes Colorado the 'Right to Repair State'—we will be able to fix more of our stuff than people in any other state. Everything breaks at some point, and when it does, we should have the freedom to fix it," commented CoPIRG Executive Director Danny Katz at the signing.

In addition, the law restricts the use of parts pairing, a practice which limits the ability to fully repair a device using spare parts without the manufacturer's permission.

In Colorado, CoPIRG led the coalition effort supporting the Right to Repair bill in partnership with the national coalition Repair.org. Among the supporters were repair shops from across the state, iFixit, local electronics manufacturer SparkFun, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) of Colorado, the Boulder U-Fix-It Clinic (part of the Fixit Clinic network), Environment Colorado, Consumer Reports, the Electronic Frontier Foundation and others. In addition, Google endorsed the legislation, the second such bill the company has supported.

## What Colorado's Right to Repair laws cover

Colorado already enforces laws that require manufacturers of powered wheelchairs and farm equipment to open their repair networks to product owners and independent repair shops.

### GO PAPERLESS!

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FALL 2024

Thanks  
for making it  
all possible

## RIGHT TO REPAIR IN COLORADO CONT.

Ted Gotwals



*Personal electronics like cellphones and laptops are covered under Colorado's new Right to Repair law.*

The new bill would ensure consumers and independent repair shops have the tools, parts, diagnostics and software access needed to fix everything from blenders to clocks—basically any consumer electronic.

Manufacturers are allowed to charge for physical parts, tools or manuals, but must charge the same amount they charge authorized repair shops. They may not charge for digital-only access to service materials or diagnostic software.

Colorado's new bill starts with the premise that it applies to all consumer electronic devices: anything with a microchip first sold after July 1, 2021. This means the legislation covers personal electronics like cellphones and laptops, printers, appliances, HVAC systems, IT equipment, e-bikes, and music and sound equipment.

However, the bill includes a list of exemptions. Everything with embedded electronics is covered, except for items like video game consoles, cable boxes, motor or electric vehicles and medical equipment.

The law goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2026.

### What's next for Right to Repair?

CoPIRG will continue to push for expanded Right to Repair so that more of our devices can be repaired, and we will work to ensure that companies are complying with the new laws. We will also be collaborating with our coalition to help secure the Right to Repair in other states.

Coloradans have the broadest repair rights of any state in the country, and we are working with PIRGs in other states to help them use our success here as a blueprint for change. Legislation is being considered in 30 other states, and our aim is to ensure that all Americans have the right to fix their own devices.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CONSUMER PROTECTION

#### New data privacy tool helps you opt out of online data collection

We should be able to use the web without sacrificing our privacy and safety. Our personal information shouldn't be bought and sold without our consent, and companies should take the protection of our passwords, medical information, banking details, and other data seriously.

As of July 1, data privacy and protecting your personal data in Colorado got easier. Instead of having to contact every website individually to opt out of your data being sold or used for targeted advertising, you can do it automatically by downloading a global opt-out mechanism.

Once you install the tool in your browser, your computer or phone will signal to websites that you don't want your information collected or sold for targeted ads. That signal has the forces of the Colorado Privacy Act and Colorado attorney general's office behind it.

It's easy to install this data privacy tool on your devices. Check out our website at [copirg.org/data-privacy](http://copirg.org/data-privacy) for step-by-step info for major browsers like Google Chrome, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge and Mozilla Firefox.

### BAN TOXIC PFAS

#### We're phasing out 'forever chemicals' in Colorado

Coloradans celebrated the passage of a new law that adds more products to Colorado's no-PFAS list this year. This move places Colorado among the top five states with the strongest laws phasing out toxic PFAS, also known as 'forever chemicals'.

### OUR MISSION

When consumers are cheated or the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by special interest lobbyists, PIRG speaks up and takes action. We uncover threats to public health and well-being and fight to end them, using the time-tested tools of investigative research, media exposés, grassroots organizing, advocacy and litigation. PIRG's mission is to deliver persistent, results oriented public interest activism that protects consumers, encourages a fair and sustainable economy and fosters responsive democratic government.

## NEWS BRIEFS

Over the past several years, a diverse coalition of consumer and environmental advocates, health professionals and clean water professionals have come together to urge manufacturers to keep PFAS out of our products.

PFAS have been used in the manufacturing of everything from common household items to sporting goods to furniture and rugs. They are also showing up in our drinking water, our rivers and lakes, and even our bodies.

Given the serious health and environmental risks that have been documented, the new law passed in Colorado is a significant step in the right direction.

Colorado's latest PFAS law bans forever chemicals from cleaning products, cookware, dental floss, menstruation products, ski wax, backpacks and handbags, artificial turf, bibs, diapers, swimwear and outdoor apparel.

"PFAS are the last thing we want getting into our water because they are called forever chemicals for a reason—they are designed to last," said Danny Katz, CoPIRG executive director. "I'm glad Colorado is leading the way in stopping PFAS from the source, including so many of the products we have in our homes, unknowingly adding PFAS into our community."

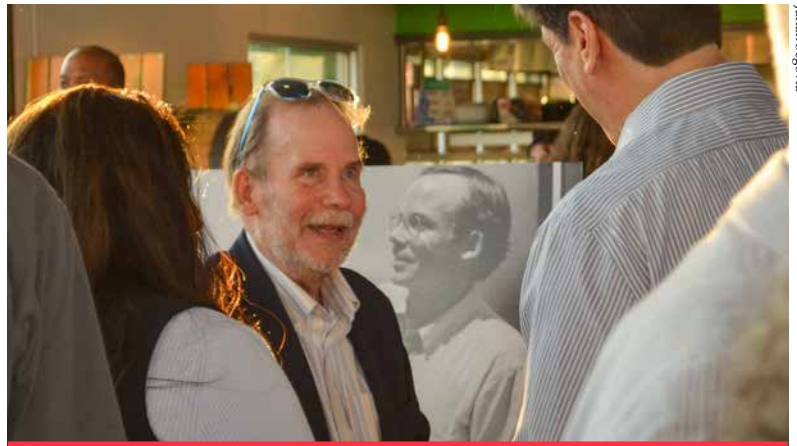
### CONSUMER PROTECTION

#### 50 years of challenging outrageous consumer abuses

In July, friends and colleagues came together in Washington, D.C., to celebrate PIRG's Ed Mierzwinski's 50th anniversary of advocating for consumers and the public interest.

Ed oversaw PIRG's federal consumer program, helping to lead national efforts to improve consumer credit reporting laws, identity theft protections, product safety regulations, and more.

He was a co-founder of the coalition Americans for Financial Reform, which fought for the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, including as its centerpiece the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).



Julian Sevoria

He was awarded the Consumer Federation of America's Esther Peterson Consumer Service Award in 2006, Privacy International's Brandeis Award in 2003, and numerous annual "Top Lobbyist" awards from The Hill and other outlets.

*Longtime PIRG consumer advocate and Senior Director of our Federal Consumer Program Ed Mierzwinski celebrated his 50-year career in July.*

Over his long career, Ed has stood up for consumers over and over again, winning many protections along the way. Ed may be the reason why you can confidently buy a car that won't be a clunker, get a free credit report or freeze your credit to protect yourself against fraud, or get financial relief from the CFPB when you've been wronged in the marketplace.

Cheers to you, Ed, and thank you for being our consumer advocate.

#### HELP PROTECT HIS FUTURE WITH YOUR INVESTMENTS



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UMB Distribution  
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Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 573-7474

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# CoPIRG

CITIZEN AGENDA • FALL 2024



## TOP STORY: We have the right to fix our electronics in Colorado

Here's what you need to know about what's included in Colorado's latest Right to Repair law and what's next for your right to fix your stuff.

### BEYOND PLASTIC

# You spoke up about plastic. Amazon is starting to listen.

Good news: On June 20, Amazon announced that by the end of this year, it will phase out plastic air pillows—those air-filled plastic film bags that show up in many of your packages—from its shipments in North America. Once it phases them out completely, the company will avoid the use of 15 billion air pillows per year.

The announcement came on the heels of another step Amazon took to reduce its use of plastic packaging.

In 2023, after receiving 138,000 petition signatures from supporters and members like you, Amazon announced its plans to phase out plastic-padded shipping bags and replace them with “more recyclable alternatives.”

Amazon is headed in the right direction, but there's still more the retail gi-



Say good night, plastic air pillows.

ant can do. Amazon should phase out all single-use plastic packaging and commit to ambitious deadlines for doing so.

By raising our voices together, we can convince Amazon to continue to reduce its reliance on plastic packaging.

### FEATURED STAFF



Kimball Nelson

**Danny Katz:** *Danny has been the director of CoPIRG for over a decade, and is a leading voice in Denver and across the state on issues such as transportation electrification, multimodal transportation, zero waste, consumer protection and public health issues. He also serves on the Colorado Department of Transportation's Efficiency and Accountability Committee, as well as the Transit and Rail Advisory Committee. He appears frequently in local media outlets and is active in a number of coalitions.*

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