**New York Farm Bureau**
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# MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

## Senate Bill 7952 (Senator O'Mara)/A. 10863 (Assemblywoman Lupardo)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, IN RELATION TO EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION TO MANAGE DEER AND BEAR**

## Date: 5/29/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the State's largest general farm advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support for this legislation.

The issue of crop damage caused by wildlife is extremely important to farmers in the State. Nearly every farmer experiences crop damage from deer, turkey or geese and only a small number manage to control the damage through repellant techniques and the current management programs. For many farms, wildlife damage is the difference between profitability and loss in an area with high populations of deer, turkey and geese.

The number of active hunters in New York State continues to decline, while wildlife populations, including most significantly the deer population continue to grow significantly. This increase in the deer population has caused an alarming and growing trend in deer/car collisions, Lyme disease infections and challenges to our state's bio-diversity. As a result, farmers are requesting the extension of statute to provide them with the ability to control the wildlife populations on their property, in their municipality and across the state.

This legislation continues needed statutory authority for the Department of Environmental Conservation to address the state's wild deer herd for New York State farmers. By continuing to provide the Department of Environmental Conservation with the authority to regulate the deer population and establish open seasons and bag limits, this bill will allow the Department to more quickly and effectively manage the deer herd and effectuate further programmatic modifications to help reduce the impact of crop damage from the deer population.

For the above reasons, New York Farm Bureau requests your support for this legislation to provide relief for the farmers of New York State.