



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 138-A (Senator Little)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE TAX LAW, IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING A FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP AND HABITAT CONSERVATION CREDIT FOR PERSONAL INCOME AND BUSINESS FRANCHISE TAXES

Date: 1/29/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support of this legislation. If enacted, this bill will provide tax credits for eligible forest properties who comply with habitat conservation and forest stewardship practices.

This legislation will establish a Habitat Conservation and Forestry Stewardship Program through the Department of Environmental Conservation. This program will allow eligible properties to enroll and develop conservation plans for a period of not less than five years and then apply for a 25 percent property tax credit. This will promote participation in conversation practices that will not only benefit New York's forest health but also help to preserve our green landscapes.

Forest landowners provide a number of benefits, such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and storm resiliency through the stewardship of their land. This legislation couples stewardship plans with a tax credit, thereby incentivizing participation and reducing the pressure on landowners who may sell land to reduce their tax burden. This land is often developed and the benefits of forested land are lost forever.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau requests your support of this legislation.