MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 7144-A (Senator Razenkofer) / Assembly Bill 8916-A (Assemblyman Hawley)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LABOR LAW, IN RELATION TO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE FARM LABORERS WAGE BOARD FROM THREE TO FIVE

Date: 2/25/2020

New York Farm Bureau, the state’s largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. If enacted, this bill would increase the number of members on the farm laborers wage board from three to five. This legislation would go into effect January 1, 2023.

The wage board will have a major influence on the future of agriculture in New York State. This legislation would establish that the wage board should consist of one member from the New York Farm Bureau, one member from the AFL-CIO, the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) and one representative of the business community at large, as well as one member appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor. The input and knowledge the Commissioner of DAM and the business community have could be invaluable when it comes to farming operations. It is important to have voices on the board that understand the unique nature of agriculture.

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