



New York Farm Bureau
Renée St. Jacques, Assistant Director
P.518.436.8495
rstjacques@nyfb.org

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 9522-A (Assemblymember Woerner)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW, IN RELATION TO SLOW MOVING VEHICLES

Date: 6/4/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support of this legislation. If enacted, this bill would increase the speed at which a slow moving vehicle with an attached slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem and an additional speed identification symbol, may travel on roadways. This legislation would help protect farm equipment drivers and non-farm drivers from accidents involving farm equipment on public roadways.

The SMV emblem is a sign used to signify to other drivers that the vehicle ahead is traveling at a reduced speed and caution should be used when approaching the vehicle. The emblem is placed on vehicles that are traveling less than 25 miles per hour and are typically found on agricultural equipment, horse and buggies, and construction equipment. The emblem, a fluorescent orange triangle with "retroreflective" borders, warns approaching motorists to slow down.

As technology has continued to improve for agricultural equipment, tractors and other farm equipment are now able to travel at speeds that exceed 25 miles per hour. This legislation would increase the speed at which a vehicle may travel with a SMV emblem as long as it includes an additional speed identification symbol. The symbol must signify the maximum speed at which the machinery is designed to operate. This will help to alert drivers to agricultural equipment traveling at speeds greater than 25 miles per hour and less than 40 miles per hour. This standard is based on the Ohio State Traffic Law and supported by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

Even when a vehicle is travelling at 35 miles per hour, it is important to notify other drivers it is driving at a reduced speed. One of the major reasons why accidents occur with farm equipment is that non-farm drivers fail to adequately react and respond when driving around farm equipment. For example, non-farm drivers often do not anticipate how slow farm equipment travels and therefore do not start to slow their vehicle as they approach the implements. By increasing the speed at which an SMV emblem is required, more agricultural equipment will display the SMV emblem and safely travel on New York's roadways.

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