



## **NEWS FROM NEW YORK FARM BUREAU**

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### **Statement For Immediate Release:**

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## **NEW YORK FARM BUREAU IS GRANTED INTERVENOR STATUS AS IT DEFENDS THE STATE'S FAMILY FARMS AGAINST LAWSUIT BY LABOR ACTIVISTS**

### **Judge says farmers would be affected by the outcome of the pending litigation**

New York Farm Bureau is extremely pleased the Supreme Court of Albany County and Judge Richard McNally granted our grassroots organization the legal permission to intervene as a party in the New York Civil Liberties Union lawsuit that seeks to create a constitutional right for farmworkers to collectively bargain.

In granting the motion, Judge McNally said in his decision, "The farmer members of the Farm Bureau would clearly be affected by the outcome of the pending litigation."

The ruling makes it clear that Farm Bureau members have a stake in this case and deserve the right of representation in defense of the NYCLU's legal claims.

NYFB initiated this action in light of both Governor Cuomo's and Attorney General Schneiderman's refusals to legally defend New York State and the law as validly enacted by the New York State Legislature.

"Farm Bureau has a century long history of advocating for New York agriculture, and the court's decision will allow our grassroots organization to vigorously push back against labor activists who seek to impose their will on family farms across the state," said Dean Norton, New York Farm Bureau President.

NYFB believes that the current New York State law exempting farmworkers from collective bargaining rights is constitutional, and that the exclusion of farmworkers from the State Labor Relations Act law is based on decades of rational public policy and legal precedent which was outlined in NYFB's motions to intervene and to dismiss. This issue has repeatedly been before the legislature to debate and decide, and the NYCLU lawsuit seeks to make an end-run around the public policy process.

NYFB will be filing a motion to dismiss the case and will proceed accordingly once the judge issues his ruling on that motion.

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*New York Farm Bureau is the State's largest agricultural lobbying/trade organization. Its members and the public know the organization as "The Voice of New York Agriculture." New York Farm Bureau is dedicated to solving the economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural community.*

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