



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2481 (Senator Amedore) / Assembly Bill 2994 (Assemblywoman Fahy)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAW, IN RELATION TO THE TASTINGS OF AND SELLING AT RETAIL FOR CONSUMPTION ON OR OFF THE PREMISES OF CERTAIN BEVERAGES

Date: 3/27/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express their support for the above referenced legislation. If enacted, this bill would expand the alcoholic beverage control law by creating parity among the licenses of the farm-based beverage sector for the on-premise consumption of beverages.

New York's beverage industry has been growing exponentially in the past several years and New York State has played an integral role in an effort to provide further economic growth within the farm beverage industries. Currently, farm wineries, farm breweries, and farm cideries are able to sell and offer tastings for New York State labelled wine, beer, and cider. But farm distilleries are not able to sell for on-premise consumption New York wine, beer, or cider and this legislation would enable farm distilleries to do so. Creating parity between farm beverage licensees will help to increase the awareness of New York farm beverages, expand the sale of farm beverages as well as bring customers back to these establishments.

Since the Craft New York Act was enacted in 2014, the number of farm distilleries has nearly doubled and has provided significant benefits to farm distilleries. There are now 107 farm distilleries operating in New York State, with 50 new businesses opening over the last two years. Farm-based beverage producers are increasingly utilized as tourism destinations and regional marketplaces that bring economic development to local areas. This bill will aid the farm beverage industry by expanding the market place for all farm-based beverages.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support of this legislation.