MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 7808-A (Assemblymember Santabarbara) / Senate Bill 6295-A (Senator Skoufis)

AN ACT TO CREATE A MORATORIUM ON THE ANNEXATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND BY CERTAIN LOCALITIES FOR AN INDUSTRIAL USE

Date: 2/28/2020

New York Farm Bureau, the state’s largest general farm organization, requests your support for this legislation.

This bill would give a town the ability to temporarily prohibit municipalities, that have completed an agricultural and farmland protection plan, from annexing agricultural land greater than two hundred acres for industrial use. Farmers are already facing many hardships and converting important agricultural land into industrial use would be an additional burden for them. It is important that farmland protection plans continue to be supported in New York communities so that land is kept in agricultural production and made available for the next generation of farmers. Depleting farmland could lead to greater problems such as, depletion of food sources and supplies for our growing population. Farmland is also a base for jobs on the farm as well as other local jobs farms create indirectly such as retail stores, food processing facilities, insurance agencies and veterinary care to name a few.

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