



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2388 (Senator Larkin)

AN ACT IN RELATION TO AUTHORIZING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Date: 2/2/2018

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

Through various industrial development agencies or IDAs, New York State provides financial development assistance to industrial companies that produce their products within the state. Until now, that has not included those companies who grow agricultural products. This legislation would expand the definition of a development project eligible for assistance to include agricultural businesses.

Agriculture is one of the state's leading industries, contributing approximately \$8 billion in overall return to the state's economy. Additionally, New York agriculture provides conservation of our natural resources, jobs in our local communities, and food for the state's citizens. By offering the same development assistance to those farmers who grow their products in New York as it does to its other industries, the state will continue to experience these benefits and be providing for its own future. Assisting in the economic development of agriculture in the state is important to all of us. One will find no better stewards of the land in New York than its farmers, nor will one find any group of citizens with more of a stake in the state's economic future.

By including New York's agricultural producers in the group of eligible recipients for development assistance, this bill will provide economic benefits to local communities throughout the state.

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