



New York Farm Bureau

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Public Policy

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 4722-A (Hinchey)/ Assembly Bill 5386-A (Lupardo)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW AND THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS LAW, IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING THE SOIL HEALTH AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY ACT

Date: 5/18/2021

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support for this legislation. If enacted, this legislation would assist farmers in enhancing and maintaining the health of soil on farms thereby improving farm productivity, protecting natural resources, reduce the impact of farming on climate change and make farms more resilient to climate change.

Farmers are on the front lines of climate change and have seen the impact of extreme weather events and shifts in climatic patterns. Soil health practices are one way that farms can not only help make their farms more resilient but also contribute positively to climate change. Healthy soils have been shown to have the ability to store more carbon, better retain water and be more resilient to drought conditions, improve water quality by reducing runoff, improve soil biology, and store nutrients for crops.

From 2012 to 2017, New York farmers have increased the number of acres with cover crops by thirty seven percent and increased no-till practices during the same period twenty one percent. This is a monumental shift; however, more work can be done but financial, weather and climatic challenges exist and this legislation will help New York farmers build off the good work that has already been started.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau requests your support of this legislation and looks forward to working with the legislature to further the market for biofuels in the state. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.