



New York Farm Bureau  
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## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

**Assembly Bill 10097 (Assemblymember Woerner) / Senate Bill 8841 (Senator Helming)**

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO INCLUDING CERTAIN LANDS USED IN THE SINGLE OPERATION FOR THE PRODUCTION OF HOPYARDS IN THE DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND PROVIDING A REAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR THE OWNERS OF CERTAIN HOPYARDS**

**Date: 5/29/2018**

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New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm advocacy organization, requests your support of this important legislation. If enacted, this bill will provide a six-year real property tax exemption for newly planted hopyards.

The number of farm breweries has been increasing drastically in New York State. With more breweries and the public focus on buying locally-grown products, there is a need for New York grown hops. Also, the farm brewery license requires an increased percentage of New York hops in the beer produced. Farm breweries want to produce beer that is made from hops grown in New York, but there needs to be more available hops, which can take years to establish in the field.

Currently, newly planted orchards and vineyards receive a six-year real property tax exemption to encourage the planting of new varieties. It would be very helpful for hopyards to receive the same tax exemption in order to help farmers with the costs of establishing a newly planted hopyard. By providing this critical tax exemption, more New York grown hops will be available, so that farm breweries can provide a true locally-grown product.

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