



New York Farm Bureau

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2199 (Senator Kennedy)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO
THE EXPANSION OF REGIONAL FARMERS' MARKETS**

Date: 1/25/2021

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, respectfully urges your support for the above-referenced legislation. If enacted, this bill would amend Agriculture and Markets Law to facilitate the creation and expansion of regional farmers' markets, particularly in areas known as "food deserts" where there is a lack of access to fresh, local food.

Farmers have long championed the development of farmers' markets as important ways to direct market to consumers. However, there is still a need to improve the distribution network for bulk and wholesale markets of locally grown fruits and vegetables. Enactment of this bill will prioritize the development of regional markets in the state and encourage their establishment in underserved urban areas where there may be a lack of availability of fresh, local produce. This would expand market opportunities for farmers. In addition, by making it easier for food to be marketed and distributed to local stores, food service agencies, restaurants and other bulk purchasers, the bill could remove a major barrier some people have to eating more healthy food as part of their regular diets.

In the interest of supporting New York's family farms and improving access to New York grown food across the state, including in "food deserts," your support of this legislation is respectfully requested.