



New York Farm Bureau  
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# MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

**Senate Bill 1739 (Senator Young)**

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW, IN RELATION TO PROVIDING TOLL EXEMPTIONS FOR FARMERS TRANSPORTING THEIR GOODS TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Date: 3/10/2017**

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New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization would like to express their support for this legislation. If enacted, this bill would provide farmers an exemption from tolls when transporting product to New York City for consumption in the city.

Currently, farms in New York are burdened by the increasing transportation costs while attempting to maintain lower prices on their product as to remain affordable for the consumer. To be able to ship agricultural products into the city, farmers are subject to additional expenses of bridge tolls, tunnel tolls, and at times, an additional charge for delivery in certain areas of Manhattan.

Consumers are able to express their preference and purchase New York's finest products in many restaurants, bodegas and farmers' markets found throughout the city. However, in order for farmers to continue to deliver products at an affordable price, transportation costs must be reduced in order to continue the availability of fresh foods within New York City.

New York farmers struggle under the most stringent regulations and onerous taxes in the country, yet produce the highest quality product. Rising costs of production and increasing toll costs create a burden on the industry that it will not be able to sustain. To help offset these expenses, farmers should be exempt from tolls when transporting product to New York City for consumption in the city.

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