



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

Assembly Bill 8270 (Assemblyman Englebright) / Senate Bill 6617-A (Senator Avella)

AN ACT IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING THE NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

Date: 1/8/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm advocacy organization, requests your opposition to this legislation. If enacted, this bill would seriously impact the cost of doing business and living in New York and make livestock production in the state very difficult.

While reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) and increasing renewable sources of energy with less emissions is a laudable goal that New York Farm Bureau supports and is actively involved in, this legislation is overly restrictive and it will damage the state's economy overall, and agriculture in particular, by imposing unrealistic standards without taking into account their impact on the state.

At the same time, efforts to reduce GHG undertaken by a single state merely drive emission-producing entities to less restrictive states and countries without significantly impacting overall GHG production. This means that this bill will not be able to effectively "address and mitigate the impacts of climate change in New York" as stated in the bill's intent.

New York State is already undergoing the REV (Reforming the Energy Vision) process, which has the goals of transitioning the use of fossil fuels to a greater dependence on renewable energy sources, thereby decreasing emissions in a market-based manner that is less punitive to our economy. In addition, the Governor has mandated that 50 percent of the state's electricity be produced by renewable sources by 2030. The combination of these efforts already has the state well on its way to reducing GHGs, rendering this damaging legislation unnecessary.

Agriculture offers many benefits to the environment, including carbon sequestration, GHG-reducing methane digesters, and being ideal sites for many types of renewable energy installations. A better approach is to take advantage of these and other assets that the state possesses to achieve the stated goals without bringing the state's economy to a halt.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your opposition to this legislation.