



**New York Farm Bureau**  
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## **MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT**

**Senate Bill 2479 (Senator Ritchie) / Assembly Bill 7367 (Assemblyman Magee)**

**AUTHORIZES AND DIRECTS THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS TO STUDY AND DEVELOP A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINING FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION IN NEW YORK STATE**

**Date: 1/8/2018**

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New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support for this legislation. This bill would direct the Commissioner of Agriculture to study and develop a long-term strategy for sustaining farming and food production in New York State. The Commissioner would develop a forward-looking statewide blue-print for conserving productive land and maintaining the vitality of agricultural production in the state.

Agriculture remains a multi-billion-dollar industry in New York and is the backbone of the Upstate economy. The vitality and sustainability of farming is essential to both the continued economic health of the entire state and to the actual physical health of our residents. In addition, farm diversification has become a more and more important aspect to long-term viability of our farming businesses in the state. Looking carefully at developing a strategic plan will help provide direction for policymakers moving forward.

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