



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 7680 (Assemblywoman Lupardo) / Senate Bill 6184 (Senator Metzger)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO THE GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND THE REGULATION OF HEMP EXTRACT; AND TO REPEAL CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SUCH LAW RELATING THERETO

Date: 6/5/2019

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm advocacy organization, requests your support for this legislation. If enacted, this bill would establish a new regulatory framework to regulate hemp production, extraction and marketing within the state.

With the changes made in the federal 2018 Farm Bill, there is growing interest by farmers, processors and other investors who would like to enter into the business. Industrial hemp production can offer significant new economic opportunities for New York State's agricultural industry, particularly now when many farms are struggling to remain successful in a global marketplace.

Expanding the Department of Agriculture's permitting process for growers, processors and marketers will ensure that its sale and production meets federal requirements and testing standards safeguarding producers and consumers.

Industrial hemp has many different uses, and the major market for industrial hemp is as a food or supplement as it is rich in protein and Omega fatty acids, and has a high fiber content. The clothing industry also produces apparel and accessories from industrial hemp and hemp blended fabrics. Industrial hemp also has uses in building materials, plant based plastics and paper products.

This legislation would ensure that New York agriculture is positioned to take advantage of this expanded market as the new federal policy permit is implemented. For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support to this legislation.