



New York Farm Bureau • 159 Wolf Road P.O. Box 5330 • Albany, New York 12205 • (518) 436-8495 Fax: (518) 431-5656 • www.nyfb.org

November 24, 2015

Mark Blanke, PE  
Assistant Director of Code Development  
New York State Department of State  
Division of Administration and Enforcement  
99 Washington Ave  
Albany, NY 12231

Dear Mr. Blanke,

New York Farm Bureau, the State's largest general agricultural advocacy organization, wishes to voice its support for the inclusion of the sawn lumber (rough cut lumber) exemptions in the Draft 2016 Uniform Code Supplement of the New York State International Building Code. Allowing the local option of sawn lumber would not only impact those that own small lumber operations, but also farmers and others that choose to use rough cut lumber for building construction.

Forestry plays a vital role in New York's economy and contributes over \$8 billion to the state's gross product. There are over 67,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs from private forests in New York State. Providing an exemption to the International Uniform Building Code will maintain local jobs and economic benefits that might otherwise be lost and provide a low cost alternative for residential home building and for use in other construction projects.

It will ensure the feasibility of hundreds of additional portable sawmill owners to continue the practice of producing structural lumber for personal use and maintain market access in many rural areas whose residents would otherwise be required to travel significant distances for such material. It will also maintain an important market for certain timber growing on mostly private land throughout the state. These markets are critical for proper management of the forest in a beneficial and sustainable manner.

We strongly support the New York State Department of Codes adoption of the Draft 2016 Uniform Code Supplement that allows a local option for sawn lumber. This will allow for the continued use of rough cut lumber in construction, as it has been used for hundreds of years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Williams".

Lauren Williams  
Assistant Director of Public Policy