



New York Farm Bureau

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 2682 (Assemblymember Lupardo)/ Senate Bill 4340 (Senator Hinchey)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, IN RELATION TO THE SALE OF CANNABINOID HEMP AND HEMP EXTRACT

Date: 2/8/2021

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. This bill would allow the direct sale of hemp flower from producers to consumers.

NYFB represents a diverse group of farmers, processors, and manufacturers from across New York State that grow, process, and sell hemp products. As of November 2020, there are 719 hemp growers authorized by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. It is crucial that there is state regulation that supports, rather than hinders, the growth of this industry.

The proposed Department of Health regulation on cannabinoid hemp and hemp extract would prohibit the sale of hemp flower products to processors, distributors, retailers, and consumers in the state. Prior to this proposed regulation, the New York hemp industry has been growing and farmers have already made plans and taken steps towards growing hemp for its flower products to be sold. It is confounding that these regulations do not support the sale of New York hemp flower products in New York State. All this does is take potential business out of the state and out of New York's economy.

This will have a serious negative economic impact on hemp farmers that have made the investment in developing a business model, growing hemp and producing hemp flower products for sale in New York. In addition, the pandemic has caused additional hardship on hemp farmers as certain market opportunities have shrunk under pandemic-related financial constraints. It is important to support farms and businesses during these difficult times, rather than imposing restrictions that will hinder their economic recovery.

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