MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

Assembly Bill 10399 (Assemblywoman Rosenthal)/ Senate Bill 8291 (Senator Sepulveda)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS WHERE ANIMALS AND/OR FOWLS ARE SLAUGHTERED AND BUTCHERED FOR FOOD

Date: 5/19/2020

New York Farm Bureau, the state’s largest agricultural advocacy organization, opposes this legislation. This legislation would place a moratorium on the operation of live markets in New York State and establish a task force to examine public health and animal welfare concerns they may present.

Unfortunately, the Sponsors’ Memorandum attempts to equate foreign live markets that allow not only for the slaughter of poultry and livestock but also for wild and exotic animals, to the regulated markets in New York State. This is all in an attempt to use the fears of our current COVID-19 pandemic to further restrict the processing of animals for human consumption. Markets in New York are licensed under article 5-A of the Agriculture and Markets law or are operated as United States Department of Agriculture facilities and are regulated by their laws and regulations, not to mention local health department inspection.

Further, the broad language used in this legislation would cause the closure of all New York State Licensed 5-A facilities that process poultry and other small livestock. This goes beyond the stated intention of the legislation in the Sponsors’ Memorandum. If the current impacts of COVID-19 have shown consumers anything, it is the importance of our local food producers who rely on these licensed facilities to process their animals.

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