



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 1435 (Senator Ritchie)/ Assembly Bill 4410 (Assemblyman Magee)

AN ACT TO AMEND TO AMEND THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS LAW, IN RELATION TO FARM DRAIN TILE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Date: 6/2/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization would like to express their support for this legislation. This bill would establish a farm drain tile financial assistance program for the installation of drainage tiles on agricultural land.

Tile drainage is a critically important tool to improve farmland yields where wetness limits crop productivity. Tile drainage has been used with great success in New York for larger and healthier crop yields, better farm efficiency and improved natural resource conservation. New York producers have seen more consistent yields, earlier planting and harvesting seasons, less soil compaction, experience less plant disease and overall less stress on their crop with the use of such systems.

This beneficial practice can fall beyond the reach of some farmers due to the costly initial investment for purchase and installation of tiles. Installation of tile drainage is a long-term investment for the farm. A farmer must balance the anticipated increased value resulting from crop yield improvements against the economic feasibility of installing tile drainage to justify such a large investment in this type of subsurface drainage system. This bill provides a valuable financial vehicle that will overcome this financial hurdle and give more farmers access to needed tile drainage.

For the aforementioned reasons, NYFB respectfully asks for your support of this bill.