



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 7893 (Senator Funke)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS LAW, IN
RELATION TO MUSIC LICENSING AGREEMENTS**

Date: 5/1/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support of this legislation. This bill would clarify and regulate music-licensing agreements, in order to help farms that engage in agritourism entertainment activities, such as wine and beer tastings.

This legislation would help agricultural operations navigate the murky depths of music licensing. Legally, when a winery hires a band or plays music, music royalties must be paid to the company that owns the license to that music. Business owners, via the companies' practice, are kept in the dark about the songs that the companies own and obtaining access to catalogs is extremely expensive, as is the payment of fines for unlicensed use of the product.

This legislation is based upon a law recently enacted in Washington State (another state with a large number of wineries) and helps clarify standards of use. This legislation, if approved, would be of great benefit to agriculture in New York.

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