



New York Farm Bureau  
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## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

**Senate Bill 368 (Senator Little) / Assembly Bill 5196 (Assemblyman Magee)**

**AN ACT IN RELATION TO THE WOOD PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND  
CONTRACTS FOR TIMBER OR OTHER FOREST PRODUCTS**

**Date: 3/03/2017**

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New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural general advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support for this legislation. This legislation would increase the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) contract threshold for private timber harvests on state land from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

As of now, timber harvest contracts exceeding \$10,000 on non-protected state lands must be reviewed and approved by both the DEC and the State Comptroller. This double appraisal process can be very time and resource intensive and frequently extends the launch of timber projects by months due to excessive scrutiny by both agencies.

The current contract level for sole DEC oversight is very low and very small forestry projects are being delayed for essentially no reason. This legislation would allow any project with a contract level of under \$50,000 to be solely approved by DEC, which would allow DEC the needed flexibility to move projects forward quickly.

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