



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 8084-A (Senator Hinchey)/ Assembly Bill 9283 (Assemblymember Peoples-Stokes)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW AND CANNABIS LAW, IN RELATION TO PROVIDING A CONDITIONAL ADULT-USE CULTIVATOR LICENSE AND A CONDITIONAL ADULT-USE PROCESSOR LICENSE

Date: 2/16/2022

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. This legislation would establish conditional adult-use cultivator and conditional adult-use processor licenses for existing licensed hemp growers.

New York's farmers have been growing hemp for fiber, grain, and cannabinoid hemp products since 2015 and many farmers are ready to start growing and processing cannabis. As the Office of Cannabis Management works on establishing the regulations regarding the application process for licenses, farmers are planning for the 2022 growing season. With cultivator and processor licenses not available yet, farmers might not receive the licenses in time to plan and plant during the 2022 season. Although retailers could receive licenses to sell adult-use cannabis products later in the year, they will still need New York grown cannabis products to sell in the dispensaries. New York farmers are poised to fill that role and these conditional licenses are needed to expediate the process of starting the adult-use cannabis market in the state.

New York Farm Bureau has strong concerns regarding the requirement that the license applicant must enter into a labor peace agreement with a bona-fide labor organization that is actively engaged in representing or attempting to represent the applicant's employees within six months of licensure. However, we recognize that this requirement already exists in the current Marihuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) regarding the requirements for adult-use cannabis licenses and will not be changed.

It is important that New York's farmers have the opportunity for an active role in the growth and production of adult-use cannabis in New York. For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.