



**New York Farm Bureau**  
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# **MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT**

**Senate Bill 7438 (Senator Ritchie)**

***AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO CERTAIN FARM WINERIES, FARM BREWERIES, FARM DISTILLERIES, AND FARM CIDERIES WHOSE BUSINESS INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL TOURISM***

**February 13, 2018**

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New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support of this legislation. If enacted, this legislation would provide guidance to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets regarding the restriction of farm operations that include wineries, breweries and cideries, in designated agricultural districts

Agricultural tourism has become a vital component of small farmers and businesses, particularly as the craft beverage industry has expanded. Laws protecting these farm operations in agricultural districts need to be updated and expanded as well, to reflect these business changes. This bill provides the Department of Agriculture and Markets with authority to examine local land use laws that may affect farm operations which include breweries, wineries, and cideries as part of their business.

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