



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 7809 (Assemblyman Sepulveda) / Senate Bill 3034 (Senator Ritchie)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO STATE FUNDING FOR ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY AT FARMER'S MARKETS

Date: 6/5/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support of this legislation. This would allow farmer's markets using electronic benefit transfer (EBT) systems to use state funding to assist with the costs associated with this technology.

Currently, farmer's markets are not able to use state funding to compensate service fees and costs such as transaction, technology and application fees, which makes the prospect of operating terminals very expensive at some markets. This legislation remediates this issue, helping to clear any obstacles that are preventing farmer's markets to easily sell to all members of the community. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) promotes using funding to purchase farm fresh fruits and vegetables through initiatives like MyPlate. This bill will tear down barriers for farmers and low-income families.

Strengthening this relationship will not only aide in combating chronic diseases like obesity, but will help to address issues of food deserts in the urban areas of New York State. Many urban communities do not have access to grocery stores and as a result turn to smaller scale markets to purchase food. Farmer's Markets help to fill the fresh food access gap in some of these communities and this bill will allow them to sell in more areas and at higher quantities, without having an additional financial barrier.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau urges you to support this legislation.