



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 10056 (Assemblyman Magee)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW IN RELATION TO ACCESS TO VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR NEW AND BEGINNING FARMERS

Date: 3/19/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support for this legislation. If enacted, this bill would enhance access to viable agricultural land for new and beginning farmers.

The agriculture industry has a substantial impact on New York's overall economic health, contributing approximately \$8 billion in overall return to the state's economy. Currently, the average age for New York farmers is 56 which is expected to increase unless steps are taken to encourage beginning farmers to join the agriculture industry. This bill would assist in identifying and promoting public land that is viable for farming and available for purchase or lease for farming. Farming is a difficult business and there are many barriers to new farmers. By allowing beginning farmers to have access to viable agricultural land, they will be able to start and grow their new businesses.

This bill would also emphasize assistance for new and beginning farmers in existing state law. It would require the New York State Agriculture Advisory Council to provide advice regarding tax, financial assistance, and other policies that would address the needs of beginning farmers. This assistance for new and beginning farmers is essential for helping them receive necessary information that is vital as they enter the agriculture industry.

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