



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2898 (Senator Ritchie)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING A ONE - STOP FARMING HOTLINE

Date: 2/3/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. If enacted this bill would create and administer a one-stop assistance hotline for farmers.

Agriculture is one of New York's most important industries. Annually, agriculture contributes \$6.36 billion to the economy and provides for 197,745 jobs. In order for farmers to continue to grow and expand their industry, access to resources and information is essential to improve their businesses. Farm transition guides, research projects, available grants and government programs are instrumental in assisting the agricultural industry. However, no central service hub exists that directs farmers to programs that will best answer their particular question or need. This legislation would create a hotline, administered by the Department of Agriculture and Markets and Cornell Cooperative Extension, that can answer questions and direct farmers to the correct organization to address their concerns.

Providing this service will not only give help to farmers, but will facilitate the growth and development of New York's largest industry. For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau requests your support of this legislation.