



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 3921 (Senator Ritchie)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURAL CUSTOM OPERATORS

Date: 3/3/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm advocacy organization, requests your support for this important legislation. If enacted, this bill would provide Agricultural District protections to agricultural custom operators when working on lands within an Agricultural District.

Many farmers hire agricultural custom operators to do work in one capacity or another on their farms. Considering the risk environment in agriculture, high machinery replacement costs and aging farm owners, custom operators can be a viable alternative for farmers to save time and money. These agricultural custom operators perform important tasks such as spreading manure, harvesting crops, bailing hay, and spraying fertilizer.

Currently, only farm owners are eligible for Agricultural District protections, and as a result, activities conducted by agricultural custom operators are open to nuisance lawsuits. This jeopardizes the ability of the agricultural custom operator to complete the agricultural practice and the farm's overall capability to function.

The proposed bill would allow for agricultural custom operators to be included in Agricultural District protections, which will provide benefits to both farmers and custom operators. For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.