



New York Farm Bureau

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2480-A (Senator Ritchie) / Assembly Bill 7295-A (Assemblyman Magee)

AN ACT TO PROVIDE GRANTS AND LOW INTEREST LOANS TO DAIRY FARMS WHO MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENTS

Date: 5/14/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, is requesting support for the above referenced legislation. This legislation would establish a dairy farm improved energy efficiency loan fund to provide grants and low-interest loans to dairy farms for energy efficiency projects and advanced energy technologies.

Dairy farms in New York are important economic engines for many of our communities. They provide both financial and environmental benefits and are important to maintaining the strength of upstate and all of New York. Having a strong dairy industry will maintain a supply of fresh, local milk to the Northeast.

New York State's dairy farmers continue to struggle as they are entering the fourth year of low milk prices. Lowering the energy bill becomes even more important to farm sustainability. This legislation would provide farmers with low-cost tools to help them become more energy efficient and reduce the cost of doing business. The program would also provide dairy farmers with efficient energy management systems, like variable speed pumps and high efficiency lighting, which will result in significant energy savings and increased milk yields.

Given the importance of this issue to dairy farm members and the upstate economy, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.