



New York Farm Bureau

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2128 (Senator Gallivan)/Assembly Bill 497 (Assemblywoman Woerner)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE TAX LAW, IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING THE
VENISON DONATION TAX CREDIT**

Date: 5/15/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express their support for this legislation. If enacted, this bill would provide a tax credit for individuals who donate venison to nonprofit organizations.

On average, 39 tons of venison are donated to local non-profit organizations and food banks every year by New York hunters and farmers through the New York Venison Donation Coalition. This donated meat provides a nutritional source of protein for the individuals in need. Providing a tax credit for venison donation would help further incentivize venison donation and increase the venison donations to local nonprofits.

Not only would a venison donation tax credit benefit the hungry, but would benefit agricultural operations as well, by better managing the deer population. According to surveys, farmers across the state experience millions of dollars in crop losses annually from deer. Agriculture plays an extremely large role in New York's economy and the value of agriculture production was over \$5.33 billion in 2015. A tax credit would allow for farmers with nuisance permits to hunt deer and then donate the venison to a local nonprofit.

If enacted, this bill would provide a tax credit that would ensure an excellent source of protein to people in need while helping reduce local deer populations. For these reasons, we request your support of this bill.