



New York Farm Bureau
Lauren Williams, Associate Director
P.518.436.8495
lwilliams@nyfb.org

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 890 (Senator Amedore)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW, IN RELATION TO DIRECTING THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A FARM EZ PASS WHICH GRANTS DISCOUNTED TOLLS FOR CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES USED BY PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Date: 5/1/2017

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 create an EZ Pass, with a 10 percent discount, for farm vehicles transporting agricultural products on the New York State Thruway.

Farms throughout the state continually ship local food and products throughout different areas and utilize the intricate transportation system of New York. However, a large concern that is expressed by numerous growers is the ever-growing increase in transportation costs. Ranging from gas prices, to toll cost, farmers are continually faced with the challenge of providing healthy food to New Yorkers and managing their business costs to remain in business – with transportation costs being a grave concern.

The New York State Thruway is increasingly the only option for farms to utilize to deliver products, but the high tolls take out a significant portion of the profits they make once they've sold their goods. This legislation would allow farmers to use the New York State Thruway to bring their products to market all across the state at a reduced toll rate. This bill continues the trend of making New York State more business friendly by allowing these businesses more flexibility of selling their goods.

For these reasons we respectfully request your support of this legislation.