



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

S. 7951 (Senator O'Mara)/A. 10862 (Assemblyman Jones)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, IN
RELATION TO EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION TO ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR HUNTING
IN THE NORTHERN ZONE**

Date: 5/29/2018

New York Farm Bureau, New York's largest general farm advocacy organization, requests your support for this legislation. Farmers are increasingly seeing damage to their crops from an ever increasing deer population. This legislation would simply extend the ability of DEC to allow hunters and farmers to enhance their deer management efforts in the Northern Zone.

According to a recently published Cornell University study on the economic impacts of farm crop damage caused by wildlife, deer are responsible for almost \$60 million in damage on an annual basis. Add to this figure, the immense financial burden placed on our health care system, as a result of vehicle/deer accidents and deer-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, and New York has an economic crisis in the making.

With the increasing and destructive trend of deer damage to agricultural businesses, coupled with a dramatically decreasing number of hunters, New York is being faced with financial, health and even environmental problems, as the escalating deer population devours new plants and trees from our woodlands – leaving little diversity in the forests in New York State. This legislation seeks to extend the Department of Environmental Conservation's authority to adopt regulations for the administration of the muzzle loading firearm big game season in the Northern Zone.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support for this legislation.