



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 3156 (Senator Griffo) / Assembly Bill 477 (Assemblywoman Gunther)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, IN RELATION TO LOWERING THE AGE FOR UNIVERSAL HUNTING LICENSES FROM FOURTEEN YEARS OLD TO TWELVE YEARS OLD.

Date: 6/5/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm advocacy organization, requests your support for this legislation. If enacted, this bill would allow youth, aged twelve and older, to have a hunting license for both large and small game.

Hunting and outdoor recreation are essential pieces of the New York State culture. Many New York families have long-standing hunting traditions and are eager to pass these skills and customs onto younger family members. Outdoors men and women spend roughly \$2.1 billion in New York State annually. The spending supports over 29,000 jobs and \$115.3 million in state tax revenues. Through a venison donation program, hunters have been averaging a 39-ton donation of venison to food pantries throughout the state on an annual basis.

Deer over-population has a negative impact on society. Annually, deer and automobile collisions cost over \$120 million dollars, deer damage to agricultural crops costs over \$80 million, and deer damage to residential property can cost over \$50 million. The growing deer population in New York State also increases incidents of Lyme disease which causes brain, heart, and joint issues.

This legislation will allow families to enjoy time spent together outside while also helping to address deer over-population. For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.