



New York Farm Bureau
Renée St. Jacques, Assistant Director
P.518.436.8495
rstjacques@nyfb.org

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 890 (Senator Amedore) / Assembly Bill 10285 (Assemblymember Steck)

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: 5/14/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express its 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 costs, farmers are continually faced with the challenge of providing healthy food to New Yorkers and managing their business and transportation costs.

The New York State Thruway is increasingly the only option for farmers to utilize to deliver products, but the high tolls take out a significant portion of their 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 markets all across the state at a reduced toll rate.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.