



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

Senate Bill 2975 (Senator Murphy) /Assembly Bill 5498 (Assemblyman Bronson)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LABOR LAW AND THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW, IN RELATION TO HOURS, WAGES AND SUPPLEMENTS IN CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC WORK

Date: 4/28/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your opposition to the above referenced legislation. If enacted, this bill would require the payment of prevailing wage for construction projects, including on-farm projects, that receive state or Industrial Development Agency (IDA) funding.

Farmers are strongly committed to ensuring their farms abide by all environmental laws and strengthen water quality. To support this effort, agricultural operations apply for and can receive state cost-share funding from the Environmental Protection Fund to install costly projects that protect neighbors and communities from potential farm water quality impacts. Similarly, many farms work with local Industrial Development Agencies to obtain needed financial support for farm business expansions that provide additional jobs and investment in the local community. And this year the state budget included \$50 million for source water protection projects on livestock farms.

The impact of a prevailing wage requirement would severely dampen on-farm infrastructure investment, at best, and potentially lead to non-compliance with state regulations, at worst. In either case, the requirement to pay prevailing wage, especially in upstate New York, where cost of living is much lower, would lead to a greatly reduced "bang for the buck" when it comes to the use of state cost-share or IDA funding for on-farm construction projects. We believe that this development would be completely antithetical to the programmatic mission of state environmental funding or local IDA investment.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau requests your opposition to this legislation.