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December 12, 2016

Chris Logue, Director
Division of Plant Industry
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive
Albany, NY 12235

RE: Proposed Rule Making: Chapter III of 1 NYCRR, Subchapter F, Industrial Hemp, Part 159,
Industrial Hemp Pilot Programs, AAM-47-16-00005-EP

Dear Mr. Logue,

New York Farm Bureau (NYFB), the largest agricultural advocacy organization in New York State, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Department's proposed rules on the expansion of the Industrial Hemp Agricultural Pilot Program that would allow industrial hemp, in addition to being grown and cultivated, to be sold, distributed, transported, and processed in New York State. New York Farm Bureau would like to express its overall support for the proposed regulations and increasing the opportunities for New York farmers to grow, transport, and market this emerging crop.

Industrial hemp production has the potential to offer significant new economic opportunities for New York State's agricultural industry. During a time when numerous farms struggle to remain successful in a global marketplace, many have turned to alternatives for diversification of crops and products produced on their farms. Industrial hemp and its products could provide another commodity for agriculture to expand and produce which in turn; helps boost the economy of New York State as a whole.

Industrial hemp has more than 25,000 possible uses that make it a central ingredient in an array of products from paper, textiles, building materials, foods, and animal bedding. Industrial hemp has many different uses, and the major market for industrial hemp is as a food or supplement as it is rich in protein and Omega fatty acids, and has a high fiber content. The clothing industry also produces apparel and accessories from industrial hemp and hemp blended fabrics. Industrial hemp can also be used for building materials, plant based plastics, and paper products.

Allowing farms and institutions of higher education to market and sell their crop to interested parties helps to create a demand for industrial hemp and increases its economic viability for production in New York State. NYFB thanks the Department of Agriculture and Markets for the opportunity to submit these comments on the proposed regulations on the expansion of the industrial hemp research program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Williams".

Lauren Williams
Assistant Director of Public Policy