



New York Farm Bureau

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 4270 (Senator Parker)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, THE TAX LAW AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, IN RELATION TO ENACTING THE CARBON FARMING ACT

Date: 2/13/2023

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support for this legislation. If enacted this legislation would create a financial incentive for farm practices that improve soil health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate-smart agricultural practices improve soil health and can increase productivity for farmers. This bill, if passed, would establish a tax credit for farmers who have long practiced land management strategies, such as no-till farming, crop rotation, and cover cropping techniques. These practices better store carbon in the soil and reduce soil erosion. It should be mentioned, however, that practices that develop healthier, more resilient soil, also promote increased populations of insects that can create devastating damage to farm crops. Care should be taken by the legislature to balance the goal of increasing soil health practices while being aware of the damage pests can have on crop yields. Pest damage can be controlled by widely accepted and heavily regulated pest control products, like neonicotinoids. Legislative prohibitions of pesticide products that ignore the regulatory authority of the Department of Environmental Conservation can have critical unintended consequences for agriculture and the environment.

New York State's farms and their land management practices have been, and can continue to be, a part of the climate change solution. For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau requests your support of this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.