



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 1234 (Assemblymember Lupardo)/ Senate Bill 1752 (Senator Hinchey)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF CROPS, LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS TO INCLUDE CANNABIS

Date: 1/23/2023

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. This bill would add the definition of cannabis to Agriculture and Markets law.

With the new opportunity for farmers to start growing adult-use cannabis, it is important that cannabis is treated as a legitimate agricultural crop. By adding the definition of cannabis to the Agriculture and Markets law, cannabis will be considered an eligible crop for agricultural related programs, including the ability to receive an agricultural assessment. Currently, if a farm is receiving an agricultural assessment, the farmer risks losing that assessment if they add cannabis to the list of crops they are producing and add unnecessary costs to entering this new market. The state must take steps to eliminate these unnecessary barriers for New York farmers and continue to support farmers as they take the risks associated with growing a new crop.

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