



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

S. 562-A (Senator Kavanagh)/A. 9079-A (Assemblywoman Gallagher)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENERGY LAW, IN RELATION TO ENACTING THE "ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDING ACT"

Date: January 23, 2023

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm advocacy organization opposes this legislation that would phase out the construction of new buildings containing fossil fuel connections.

The agricultural industry with its large equipment and power intensive production is extremely hard to electrify. New York Farm Bureau has serious concerns with the recommendation to adopt zero emissions codes and standards and implores the state to ensure that it recognizes the uniqueness of individual sectors that have many processes that are difficult to electrify. Although this bill carves out commercial food establishments, it fails to consider various other farms and food processing facilities.

For agriculture, this is not only applicable to farms, but also at our processing facilities that process raw agricultural commodities like grain and fluid milk. A few key areas on farms where there are technologies that are extremely difficult, if not impossible to electrify, are grain drying systems and greenhouses. These systems do not have viable, commercial options to be electrified, as natural gas is the primary fuel source.

Additionally, as farms continue to operate on thin margins, and continually update their business plans to continue to be competitive in New York State, it is a poor business practice for farmers to fail to take into consideration the financial impacts regarding the technical or physical infeasibility for equipment and/or buildings to be electrified, as suggested in this bill. Like all other business owners, farmers too have a duty to act in the best interests of their business's financial health.

Farmers can and do contribute in many meaningful ways to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, through soil health, anaerobic digestion and forestry practices, to name a few. However, the goals of this bill far outpace current technology and can threaten food access and local economies. At the very least, agriculture like laundry mats, hospital or commercial food establishment should be exempted from these requirements.

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