



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Brian M. Kolb
Minority Leader

May 15, 2019

Hon. Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
Room 932 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Donna A. Lupardo
Chair, Assembly Agriculture Committee
Room 828 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Marcos A. Crespo
Chair, Assembly Labor Committee
Room 522 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Legislative Colleagues:

Agriculture has been a cornerstone industry in New York State for hundreds of years. The value of New York family farms to our communities, our economy, our well-being, and our future simply cannot be overstated.

The Assembly Minority Conference has a number of concerns over the proposed Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act (S.2837/A.2750). This proposal would dramatically overhaul the operations and workforce practices within the agricultural community. If enacted, the legislation will have far-reaching impacts on New York's products, prices, consumers, and competitiveness. We have heard from literally thousands of constituents who have expressed their own reservations about the bill and its potential ramifications.

On March 15, Assemblyman Phil Palmesano and Sen. Thomas O'Mara wrote to you requesting public hearings be held on S.2837/A.2750. The State Senate conducted three hearings – in Madison, Suffolk, and Sullivan counties – but the State Assembly has done nothing whatsoever to engage New Yorkers in the same manner.

While Senate hearings were offered in three areas, too many communities and regions in New York still have not had the opportunity to be heard on this proposal. Legislation of this magnitude, which carries serious potential effects on one of our top industries and our state economy, demands the insights and input from the public in every region of the state.

As members of "The People's House," we take seriously our obligation and feel that the lack of a response undermines our responsibilities as public officials. The Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices

Act warrants a thorough conversation with all stakeholders, and the Assembly should do everything in its power to provide that platform. Thank you for your consideration.

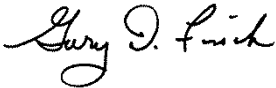
Sincerely,



Ken Blankenbush
Ranker, Committee on Agriculture



Clifford W. Crouch
Member, Committee on Agriculture



Gary D. Finch
Member, Committee on Agriculture




Michael Fitzpatrick
Member, Committee on Agriculture




Steve Hawley
Member, Committee on Agriculture



Brian Miller
Member, Committee on Agriculture



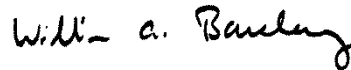
Brian M. Kolb
Assembly Minority Leader



Phil Palmesano
132nd Assembly District



Jake Ashby
107th Assembly District



Will Barclay
120th Assembly District



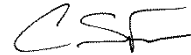
Karl Brabenec
98th Assembly District



Marjorie Byrnes
133rd Assembly District



David DiPietro
147th Assembly District



Christopher S. Friend
124th Assembly District



Andrew Garbarino
7th Assembly District



Andy Goodell
150th Assembly District



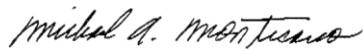
Kieran Michael Lalor
105th Assembly District



Brian Manktelow
130th Assembly District



John Mikulin
17th Assembly District



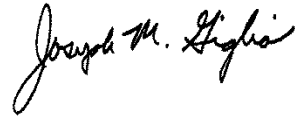
Michael Montesano
15th Assembly District



Mike Norris
144th Assembly District



Ed Ra
19th Assembly District



Joseph M. Giglio
148th Assembly District



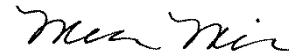
Mark Johns
135th Assembly District



Peter Lawrence
134th Assembly District



Dave McDonough
14th Assembly District



Melissa "Missy" Miller
20th Assembly District



Angelo Morinello
145th Assembly District



Anthony Palumbo
2nd Assembly District



Andrew Raia
12th Assembly District



Mike Reilly
62nd Assembly District



John Salka
121st Assembly District



Colin Schmitt
99th Assembly District



Doug Smith
5th Assembly District



Robert Smullen
118th Assembly District



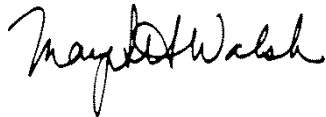
Daniel Stec
114th Assembly District



Chris Tague
102nd Assembly District



Mark Walczyk
116th Assembly District



Mary Beth Walsh
112th Assembly District




Nicole Malliotakis
64th Assembly District



Joe DeStefano
3rd Assembly District



Mike LiPetri
9th Assembly District



Kevin Byrne
94th Assembly District