



# SUPPORT

## S. 822 (Funke)

*An act to amend the public service law, in relation to the creation of the  
New York Farm-to-Urban Consumer Solar Access Act of 2015*

The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) supports S. 822, sponsored by Senator Funke and Assemblymember Crespo. If enacted, this bill would extend the savings and benefits of solar energy to those who live in multi-family residences throughout urban areas, as well as create additional revenue streams for owners of agricultural lands in New York State.

This bill will help facilitate the proliferation of solar energy throughout the state by connecting residents of multi-family housing with energy producers. Those who live in multi-family residences have an implicit need for inexpensive energy, and those who live on farmlands have a well-stated need for more stable revenue sources.

According to the USDA, a majority of farm-based households are more dependent on nonagricultural income. This income is subject to more fluctuations than on-farm income, leading to financial insecurity for many of our state's farm owners. By lowering the financial barriers to the installation of solar arrays on farms, a farmer can obtain another source of steady income throughout the year.

On the other side of the equation, a majority of those living in multi-family apartment housing have annual incomes below \$50,000 a year. For those living in the urban areas of New York, energy prices far exceed the national average, making electric bills an impediment on the financial health of urban residents and families. This bill lowers the barriers for urban apartment dwellers to purchase clean, renewable energy.

The environmental benefits of solar energy are unassailable. Photovoltaic energy saves water, inhibits carbon emissions, and serves as an unlimited source of energy. By connecting urban residents with solar energy from farms and other qualified lands, we can allow them to share in the environmental and economic benefits of solar.

In addition, by allowing owners of farmland to sell energy that they have produced via photovoltaic systems, we can ensure greater, more secure incomes for farm-based households. This can lead to increased farm production, increases in wages, as well as expansion. This is an event that has inherent economic benefit to the farm household, the 106,000-plus laborers who work on farmland, and the state.

By increasing the amount of solar energy utilized statewide, we can decrease our state's overall carbon emissions and foster a more sustainable economic and environmental future for our state.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) strongly urges passage of S. 822

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