



SUPPORT

S. 822/A. 7917 (Funke/Crespo)

*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 2017*

The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) supports S. 822/A. 7917 (Funke/Crespo), which would extend the savings and benefits of solar energy to those who live in multi-family residences and create additional revenue streams for owners of agricultural land.

According to the USDA, a majority of farm-based households are more dependent on nonagricultural income than agricultural income. This income is subject to more fluctuations than on-farm income, leading to financial insecurity for many of New York'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.

A majority of New Yorkers living in multi-family apartment housing have annual incomes below \$50,000 a year. In the urban areas of New York, energy prices far exceed the national average and strain the financial health of families. This bill would lower the barriers for urban apartment dwellers to purchase clean, renewable energy.

Connecting urban residents with solar energy from farms and other qualified lands enables them to share in the environmental and economic benefits of solar while ensuring greater, more secure incomes for farm-based households. This can lead to increased farm production, increases in wages, and farm expansion. Increasing the amount of solar energy utilized statewide will decrease our carbon emissions and foster a more sustainable economic and environmental future.

For these reasons, NYLCV strongly urges passage of S. 822/A. 7917.

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