



SUPPORT

S. 6339/A. 8083 (Ritchie/Magee)

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to creating a solar array pollinator benefit program

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 6339/A. 8083 (Ritchie/Magee), which would establish a standard for solar sites that provide benefits to pollinators through vegetation management.

Pollinators are crucial to New York State's agricultural productivity, playing a key role in the size, health, and quality of a wide variety of harvests. But many pollinator species are in decline due to disease, ecosystem destruction, environmental factors, and other issues, hurting thousands of farms across the state. At the same time, thousands of solar energy projects are in development and agricultural and agricultural-adjacent land is often a desirable location for solar arrays. Planting native vegetation and managing in a way that is hospitable to pollinators can both benefit nearby agricultural land and improve the aesthetics of solar arrays.

S. 6339/A. 8083 would create minimum standards, to be promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Markets, that a solar site would have to meet or exceed in order to claim that it provides benefits to pollinators. The bill would create "truth in advertising" standards for pollinator-friendly solar arrays that would encourage the development of such arrays without mandating their creation. An increase in the number of pollinator-friendly solar arrays would benefit pollinators and agriculture, make solar sites more aesthetically pleasing, and help New York develop its renewable energy resources.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of S. 6339/A. 8083.

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