



# SUPPORT

## A. 10301-A/S. 8362 (Barrett/Ritchie)

*AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the acquisition of agricultural preservation restrictions*

### **The Working Farm Protection Act**

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 10301-A/S. 8362 (Barrett/Ritchie), which would add affordability provisions to the State's Farmland Protection Grant Program.

Working farms provide multiple benefits that merit strong preservation efforts, including growing healthy food, providing fresher food at a lower environmental impact than out-of-state farms due to their distance to market, and contributing to the fight against climate change by being significantly less carbon-intensive than residential or commercial development. However, New York's existing farmland is threatened because more and more farmers are reaching retirement age without someone to take over the farm for them. While the Farmland Protection Program has preserved more than 61,000 acres of farmland through conservation easements, young farmers can still not necessarily afford this preserved land when it is put up for sale.

The Working Farm Protection Act would add affordability provisions to the Farmland Protection Program that require preserved farmland to be sold at its appraised "agricultural use value," which would help working farmers to afford its purchase. New York's Farmland Protection Grant Program has been a success but would be strengthened by the addition of affordability provisions.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters urges passage of A. 10301-A/S. 8362.

Contact:  
Patrick McClellan  
(212) 361-6350 x 209  
pmcclellan@nylcv.org

