



WILL BARCLAY
Minority Leader

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
Hart Senate Office Building, 322
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President, Secretary Perdue, Administrator Carranza, Minority Leader Schumer & Congressional Leaders:

As federal officials attempt to manage and minimize the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we write to urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to take immediate steps to provide critical relief to New York State's Agricultural industry.

Members of the New York State Assembly Minority Conference represent thousands of family farms in every region of the State. We write to our federal representatives because we know firsthand the needs of our farmers, and we are witnessing an industry approaching the brink of collapse.

With approximately 160,000 positive cases, New York State has been the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak for months. Measures to prevent the spread of the virus have led to severe

disruptions to the dairy industry's supply chain, dramatic reductions in demand, and have forced many farmers to dump valuable product.

New York's 33,400 farms, including 4,000 dairy farms, are the backbone of our economy, and more importantly, the food supply. In New York alone, the agricultural industry generates more than \$5 billion in sales annually, of which \$2.5 billion is attributable to the dairy industry.

As one of America's top dairy-producing states, New York's economy and entire agricultural industry are facing an unprecedented challenge that necessitates an unprecedented commitment from federal leaders. While officials in Washington deliberate additional stimulus measures to revitalize our nation, help our citizens, and enable industries to recover, we respectfully request that you consider these recommendations to help our farms and State economy survive:

- The \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was a monumental achievement to assist Americans in this time of crisis. We believe the USDA must ensure New York State immediately receives the largest percentage of CARES Act funding, due to the severity of the virus here, combined with our position as a national leader in dairy production;
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) must clarify and ensure that farm and agricultural businesses are eligible for the \$10,000 Economic Injury Disaster Loan provided for in the CARES Act;
- Further, the federal government must ensure that the temporary flexibilities on farm loans recently announced by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are made permanent for the duration of the pandemic and subsequent economic recovery, and also by ensuring adequate and equitable access to credit during this period of market uncertainty;
- Washington must enact an additional stimulus package that provides 100 percent federal reimbursement of monies lost to New York farmers that would not be covered under the CARES Act. Further, this relief should continue for at least 90 days after the present emergency period has expired;
- The federal government should ensure that the H2-A visa program continues to operate;
- The list of agricultural items should be expanded to include dairy products for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; and
- The federal government should reimburse the State for any revenues lost by actions designed to reduce costs and regulatory burdens on the agricultural industry.

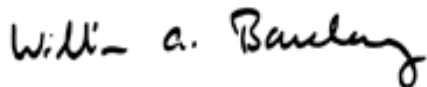
Farming is part of the very fabric of our state and nation. It is more than just an industry or occupation. Farming is a calling that requires unique character, an unrivaled work ethic, and an unwavering commitment to provide food and products upon which the entire world relies. We need to do everything in our power to ensure their success and their survival continues long after we have defeated the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, time is of the essence. Every day that passes without meaningful federal assistance is another day of uncertainty for farming families, or another day farms move closer to closing their doors. We hope the USDA will act with speed and urgency to provide substantial relief here in New York.

Our entire Conference appreciates your tireless efforts during this troubling time. We thank you for your consideration and attention to this pressing matter.

God bless America.

Sincerely,



Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader



Ken Blankenbush
117th Assembly District



Chris Tague
102nd Assembly District



Jake Ashby
107th Assembly District



Karl Brabenec
98th Assembly District



Kevin Byrne
94th Assembly District



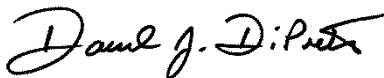
Marjorie Byrnes
133rd Assembly



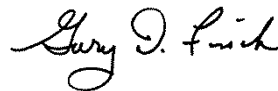
Clifford W. Crouch
122nd Assembly District



Joe DeStefano
3rd Assembly District



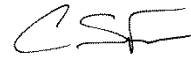
David DiPietro
147th Assembly District



Gary D. Finch
126th Assembly District



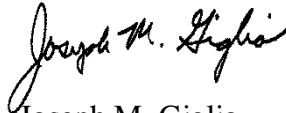
Michael Fitzpatrick
8th Assembly District



Christopher S. Friend
124th Assembly District



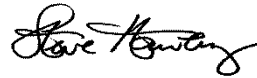
Andrew Garbarino
7th Assembly District



Joseph M. Giglio
148th Assembly District



Andy Goodell
150th Assembly District



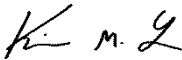
Steve Hawley
139th Assembly District



Mark Johns
135th Assembly District



Brian M. Kolb
131st Assembly District



Kieran Michael Lalor
105th Assembly District



Peter Lawrence
134th Assembly District



Mike LiPetri
9th Assembly District



Nicole Malliotakis
64th Assembly District



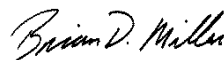
Brian Manktelow
130th Assembly District



Dave McDonough
14th Assembly District



John Mikulin
17th Assembly District



Brian Miller
101st Assembly District

Melissa "Missy" Miller
20th Assembly District

Michael Montesano
15th Assembly District

Angelo Morinello
145th Assembly District

Mike Norris
144th Assembly District

Phil Palmesano
132nd Assembly District

Anthony Palumbo
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Ed Ra
19th 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

Mark Walczyk
116th Assembly District

Mary Beth Walsh
112th Assembly District

cc: Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator
Honorable Lee Zeldin, Congressman
Honorable Pete King, Congressman
Honorable Thomas Suozzi, Congressman
Honorable Kathleen Rice, Congresswoman
Honorable Gregory Meeks, Congressman
Honorable Grace Meng, Congresswoman
Honorable Nydia Velazquez, Congresswoman
Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Congressman
Honorable Yvette Clarke, Congresswoman
Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
Honorable Max Rose, Congressman
Honorable Carolyn Mahoney, Congresswoman
Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Congresswoman
Honorable Jose Serrano, Congressman
Honorable Eliot Engel, Congressman
Honorable Nita Lowey, Congresswoman
Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney, Congressman
Honorable Antonio Delgado, Congressman
Honorable Paul Tonko, Congressman
Honorable Elise Stefanik, Congresswoman
Honorable Anthony Brindisi, Congressman
Honorable Tom Reed, Congressman
Honorable John Katko, Congressman
Honorable Joseph Morelle, Congressman
Honorable Brian Higgins, Congressman