



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michelle Hinchey

## Hinchey Bill to Protect New York Farmland and Food Security Signed into Law

MICHELLE HINCHEY December 6, 2022

| COMMITTEE: **AGRICULTURE**



**KINGSTON, NY** – Senator Michelle Hinchey today announced the signing of her bill ([S8889A](#)) to create the Agricultural and Farmland Viability Protection Fund, which will bolster efforts to protect agricultural land from being permanently removed from farming to make way for solar development.

Currently, all solar projects receiving funding through [NYSERDA's NY-Sun](#) incentive

program that site projects on active farmland must pay a penalty, which currently goes into the State's General Fund. **S8889A**-Hinchey requires that all penalty money collected be deposited instead into the new Agricultural and Farmland Viability Protection Fund and allocated to state and local farmland protection programs.

“With the Climate Crisis changing the face of agriculture as we know it and rendering top food producing states, like California, unequipped to respond, New York must act now to protect local farmland and ensure a stable food supply for our region,” **said Senator Hinchey**. “I thank Governor Hochul for signing my bill to create the Agricultural and Farmland Viability Protection Fund and look forward to ensuring that we continue to work to create a future centered on locally sourced, healthy food and incentivize smart solar development without eliminating our finite agricultural resources.”

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2021-S8889A**

- 
- Introduced
  - - In Committee Assembly
    - In Committee Senate
  - - On Floor Calendar Assembly

- On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly

- Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Requires certain funds received by the New York state energy research and development authority that are related to renewables development on agricultural lands to be used for farmland protection programs

April 27, 2022

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Michelle Hinchey**

Do you support this bill?