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SENATOR
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STATE OF NEW YORK
MAJORITY DEPUTY WHIP

CHAIRMAN
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

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AGING
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
DOMESTIC ANIMAL WELFARE
EDUCATION
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

April 21, 2020

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
12235 10B Airline Drive
Albany, NY 12205
Attention: Richard Ball, Commissioner

Re: Food Waste During COVID-19

Dear Commissioner Ball,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. First, as I believe all government departments are involved in steering our state through the uncharted waters of recovery during the Coronavirus crisis, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your efforts.

The article, *Dumped Milk, Smashed Eggs, Plowed Vegetables: Food Waste of the Pandemic*, featured in the N.Y. Times on April 11, 2020, described the plight of some farmers within our nation and how the Coronavirus has caused them to dispose of vast amounts of fresh food and dairy produce, due to their normal distribution process being disrupted by the virus crisis. While I am extremely sympathetic to the negative effect the Coronavirus has had on many of our businesses, including farmers, I am also concerned for the volume of food and dairy wasted, considering the growing number of individuals and entities in need of the same.

I am respectfully requesting the general status of our state farmers in dealing with the virus and whether the practices of prematurely disposing of food and dairy products are occurring in New York. I know of many local pantries, food distributors and families who share my concern for the wasting of food and other produce during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Once again, thank you for your efforts throughout these unprecedented, challenging times. I look forward to your response regarding the above request.

Very truly yours,


Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
New York State Senator
15th District

