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DISABILITIES

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

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April 8, 2019

Senator Jen Metzger, Agriculture Committee Chair
Legislative Office Building Room 817
Albany, NY 12247

Senator Jessica Ramos
Legislative Office Building Room 946
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Sen. Metzger and Sen. Ramos:

We are pleased that you are taking the time to host public hearings on the proposed Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act. However, we are concerned with the effectiveness of the proposed hearings as they exclude significant portions of the state.

Although hearings in Madison, Sullivan, and Suffolk Counties are a good start, the proposed initial schedule ignores large portions of the state. The Capitol Region, the Hudson Valley, the Southern Tier, the North County, and Western New York are all robust, diverse agricultural communities; farms and farmworkers in those regions deserve input.

As you are aware, agriculture is the leading industry across much of our state and works to directly support approximately 200,000 jobs across 35,000 farms – many of them small and family-owned. With such a dramatic overhaul proposed to this industry and our state's economy, it is essential to maximize participation across our state's diverse regions and agricultural sectors.

We would all be happy to help you coordinate a hearing in our regions, so please use us as a resource. We appreciate your commitment to gathering public input on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert G. Ortt in blue ink.

Robert G. Ortt
State Senator, 62nd District
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture

Handwritten signature of Pamela A. Helming in blue ink.

Pamela A. Helming
State Senator, 54th District



Robert E. Antonacci
State Senator, 50th District



Rich Funke
State Senator, 55th District



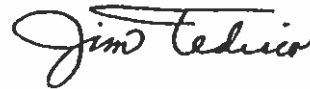
George A. Amedore Jr.
State Senator, 46th District



Chris Jacobs
State Senator, 60th District



Sue Serino
State Senator, 41st District



James N. Tedisco
State Senator, 49th District



Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District



Betty Little
State Senator, 45th District



Fred Akshar
Senator, 52nd District