

May 24, 2023

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader New York State Senate
Albany, New York 12247

Honorable Carl Heastie Speaker
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Majority Leader Cousins and Speaker Heastie,

There has been some miscommunication regarding the filing of amendments to S.1856 - legislation that aims to ban products that are critical to farmers, landscapers, golf courses, the state's agriculture community, and New York families.

During the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee meeting this week, claims were made that New York's farmers had a role in the creation of amendments, but this wasn't the case. In fact, no one in the agricultural and horticultural communities had seen the amendments prior to the committee moving the bill to the floor, leaving us no time to react.

We strongly oppose the amendments that were finally made public, as they do little to substantially change the bill, its impact on farmers, landscapers and golf courses. This is true with regard to both financial and environmental impacts, as the bill will continue to negatively influence our ability to adopt climate smart agricultural and horticultural practices and deliver fresh, affordable food, turfgrass and landscapes to New Yorkers from Niagara to Long Island. We also believe that the bill does not deliver the environmental benefits that are being advertised.

The undersigned respectfully asks for your support in holding this legislation from advancing further this session until we can review and respond to the amendments. We are available to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss our ongoing concerns with this legislation.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

CropLife America

Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America

GROWMARK FS, LLC

Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association

Long Island Farm Bureau

Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association

Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

New York Agribusiness Association

New York Apple Association

New York Farm Bureau

New York Green Industry Council

New York State Horticultural Society

New York State Turfgrass Association

New York Vegetable Growers Association

Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance

Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment