

1 **2023 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture & Rural Affairs**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution in Support of Securing Key County Priorities in the 2023 Farm**
6 **Bill**

7 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Farm Bill helps New York counties make critical investments in
8 infrastructure, economic development, workforce training, nutrition and conservation
9 in some of our most underserved communities; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, preserving the law’s programs is key to the strength and stability of our
12 local, regional, state and national economies; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) supports the
15 following priorities in the 2023 Farm Bill:

- 16 1.) ***Improve ease of access and flexibility of Farm Bill programs*** –
17 Cumbersome regulations and statutory requirements restrict rural communities
18 from accessing the resources they desperately need to thrive. Counties support
19 legislative action to streamline application processes and reporting requirements
20 for Farm Bill programs such as the ReConnect Program and the Rural Innovation
21 Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program. Counties also support efforts to add
22 additional flexibility for federal match requirements that force rural communities
23 to secure additional funding before unlocking much-needed resources.
24
25
26 2.) ***Maintain and expand Farm Bill conservation programs*** – The
27 protection of our state’s ecosystems starts with the conservation efforts of our
28 rural communities by our farmers. Counties support the reauthorization of
29 producer-led voluntary conservation programs administrated by USDA,
30 including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation
31 Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easements
32 Program (ACEP).
33
34 3.) ***Invest in the capacity of rural counties*** – Robust investment in the
35 expertise and capacity of rural counties will empower rural policymakers to plan
36 and execute local-led community development strategies. NYSAC calls on
37 congress to include at least \$1 billion in mandatory funding for grants-based
38 rural capacity-building programs in the 2023 Farm Bill. NYSAC also supports
39 extending eligibility for the Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program
40 to rural governments to provide financial assistance to county operated facilities.
41 In turn, population thresholds should be increased where possible when
42 considering eligibility for rural development programs, while inserting language
43 that would prioritize low-population counties.
44

1 4.) **Invest in high-speed internet access** – According to the Federal
2 Communications Commission (FCC), 14.5 million Americans lack quality
3 broadband internet access. NYSAC supports authorizing the ReConnect Program
4 through the Farm Bill. NYSAC also supports reauthorizing the Distance Learning
5 & Telemedicine Program, which would increase the quality of life and help rural
6 New York thrive. Finally, NYSAC supports reauthorizing the Community Connect
7 Grant program, which will continue to invest in community orientated
8 connectivity that supports economic growth, education, healthcare and public
9 safety in rural New York.

10
11 5.) **Expand Opportunities for the rural economy** – NYSAC supports
12 reauthorizing the Rural Business Development Grants Program and the Rural
13 Investment Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program to provide enhanced
14 opportunities for rural businesses and create good-paying jobs.

15
16 6.) **Strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
17 – New York Counties are on the front lines for the development, implementation
18 and administration of food and nutrition programs that combat hunger at the
19 local level through partnerships with the Federal government. NYSAC supports
20 maintaining and enhancing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
21 (SNAP), including increasing the options available to State and local
22 governments to streamline SNAP applications and administrative processes,
23 combat food insecurity among active-duty service members by excluding the
24 Basic Allowance for Housing from income eligibility and supporting the
25 promotion of healthy diets by offering incentives and the infrastructure to
26 encourage more local fruit/vegetable production and consumption.

27
28 7.) **Provide stronger support for small and mid-size producers** – small
29 farms constitute a large portion of new york state farms. Nysac supports
30 reauthorization of the farming opportunities training and outreach (foto)
31 program and increased funding for local agriculture market program (lamp).
32 Nysac also supports maintaining and improving farm safety net programs
33 targeting new, beginning, and underserved producers.

34
35 8.) **Maintain and expand support for farmers** – Agriculture is the backbone
36 of New York’s economy and subsequently has a major impact on county
37 economies. Some programs that are important to counties include the
38 Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) Program, the Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
39 Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Federal Crop Insurance
40 Program (FCIP), Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), Specialty Crop Block Grant,
41 Whole Farm Revenue Protection, and Non-Insured Assistance Program

42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
43 Counties (NYSAC) calls on our federal representatives to include all twelve titles of the
44 Farm Bill and fully fund them as they are vital to the strength of county economies
45 across New York; and
46

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
2 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

3

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
5 the New York State Congressional Delegation, members of the NYS Assembly and
6 Senate Agricultural Committees, and all others deemed necessary and proper.