

RESOLUTION

OPPOSING ANY DECREASE TO THE FARM LABOR OVERTIME
THRESHOLD

WHEREAS, the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the Mohawk Valley Region, and

WHEREAS, the farmers of the Fulton Montgomery Region are an integral part of our communities, supporting economic development and tourism, and

WHEREAS, agriculture is New York State's largest industry, and

WHEREAS, the Farm Laborers Wage Board has proposed to decrease the farm labor overtime threshold from 60 to 40 hours, and

WHEREAS, farms are critical components of our regional economy and are necessary to ensure supermarkets are stocked with food, and

WHEREAS, from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers have stepped up and ensured their operations continued and were responsible for donating thousands of pounds of food to local food banks at a time of significant need, and

WHEREAS, New York farmers face a tremendous number of challenges outside of their control including changes in consumer demand leading to price change, obtaining labor, climate change, land management policies, foreign market competition, livestock and crop disease, and

WHEREAS, in addition to the practical issues related to growing and selling food products, New York farmers have to contend with wavering levels of government regulations including changes in wages and overtime threshold, and

WHEREAS, one of the more pressing issues for the farming community has been mandated overtime requirements since the 2019 Farm Laborers Fair Practice Act, currently gives farmworkers a right to overtime after sixty (60) hours of work each week, and

WHEREAS, decreasing the overtime threshold will negatively impact the farming community by increasing costs to farmers, who are operating under very tight margins, and

WHEREAS, the increasing of costs through government actions should be avoided wherever possible, and

Fulton  Montgomery
REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WHEREAS, the majority of testimony provided in the hearing process requested "NO CHANGE" to the overtime threshold. This is another example of downstate interests ignoring the needs of upstate. Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce emphatically opposes any decrease to the 60 hour farm worker overtime threshold proposed by the Farm Laborers Wage Board.

Copy of this resolution to be forwarded to NYS Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator James Tedisco, Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, NYS Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, NYS Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball, NYS Farm Bureau, Fulton County Farm Bureau, Montgomery County Farm Bureau, Fulton County Board of Supervisors, Montgomery County Legislature.

Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce

Adopted on MAY 12 / 2022

Trevor Evans
Chairman



Mark Kilmer
President/CEO



Resolution # 22001
