



**North Country**  
Chamber of Commerce

The Power of Region

Home of:

Adirondack Coast  
Visitors Bureau

North American Center  
of Excellence for  
Transportation  
Equipment (NAmTrans)

North Country  
Service Corporation

North Country  
Industrial Council

Quebec - New York  
Corridor Coalition

SCORE

Serving:

Clinton

Essex

Franklin

Warren

Hamilton

Akwesasne

Southern Quebec

May 3, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the North Country Chamber of Commerce regarding an essential matter involving farmers in my region. Earlier this year, the Farm Labor Wage Board voted, by a 2-1 margin, to advance resolutions to the Commissioner of Labor to reduce the overtime threshold on New York farms from 60 to 40 hours. To be clear, those recommendations will hurt farms, farm workers and consumers at the worst possible time.

More than 33,000 farms support 55,000 jobs and generate billions in economic activity across New York State. The North Country is the proud home of more than 4,000 farms. These small businesses, which do a tremendous job of feeding families and fueling our economy, help make the North Country a truly special place.

Since the start of the pandemic, New York's farms have provided more than 40 million pounds of food to hungry families through the Nourish New York program. This successful program, which you have rightly championed, will be greatly diminished if the overtime threshold is lowered to 40 hours per week.

In addition to consumers who are already paying higher food prices due to historic inflation, farms and agri-businesses that support farms will be harmed by a lower overtime threshold. Even with the inclusion of the overtime tax credit in this year's budget, there are questions as to whether that approach will be viable now or available in the future.

To be clear – the future of agriculture here in the North Country and across New York State is in your hands. I urge your administration to support our hardworking farmers, farm workers and consumers and reject the Wage Board's overtime recommendations.

Onward and Upward,

Garry Douglas  
President and CEO



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