



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor, New York State
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

On behalf of struggling cannabis farmers across New York State, we are urging you to sign S.7295A/A.7375A, known as the "Cannabis Crop Rescue Act."

Very simply, the extended timeline of New York State's troubled rollout of the licensing and regulations establishing a safe, legal market for adult-use cannabis has had a significant negative impact on New York's licensed cannabis farmers who invested in crops they now have limited places to sell. The crop is also losing value by the day. Regulatory delays, lawsuits, and logistical and financing challenges have caused the state to miss its timelines and targets. However, cultivators are the group paying the steepest price.

Right now, there are over 200 cannabis farmers trying to sell their crops but only 23 dispensaries open statewide. This has resulted in more than 250,000 pounds of unsold cannabis. Farmers who took out loans and leveraged all their assets to cultivate these crops are demoralized and facing financial disaster unless we act quickly to provide them with an alternate market.

Allowing these farmers to sell their cannabis to purchasing agents from New York's Tribal Nations can be a short-term solution. These Tribal dispensaries would benefit from access to a source of local, safe, laboratory-tested products. Farmers would benefit from a new pathway to sell their products. Along with the Cannabis Grower's Showcases, it could be the financial lifeline they need right now.

New York's cannabis farmers, who went out on a limb to help get the state's legal market off the ground, should not be facing financial ruin because of regulatory delays. We should be giving them every possible opportunity to stay afloat while they await the development of the market they were promised. The Cannabis Crop Rescue Act is such an opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Senator Michelle Hinchey
41st Senate District
Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee



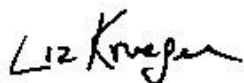
Senator George M. Borrello
57th Senate District
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Committee



Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo
123rd Assembly District
Chair, Assembly Agriculture Committee



Assemblyman Chris Tague
120th Assembly District
Ranking Member, Assembly Agriculture Committee



Senator Liz Krueger
28th Senate District
Chair, Senate Finance Committee



Assemblywoman Crystal People-Stokes
141st Assembly District
Assembly Majority Leader



Assemblyman Joseph G. Angelino
112nd Assembly District



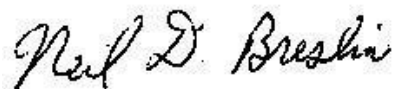
Assemblyman Scott Bendett
107th Assembly District



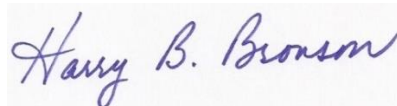
Senator Jamaal T. Bailey
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Assemblyman Karl Brabenec
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Senator Neal Breslin
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Assemblyman Harry B. Bronson
138th Assembly District



Senator Samra Brouk
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Assemblywoman Sarah Clark
136th Assembly District

Senator Jeremy Cooney
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Senator Leroy Comrie
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Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz
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Assemblyman Joe DeStefano
3rd Assembly District

Assemblywoman Emily Gallagher
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Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy
10th Assembly District

Senator Nathalia Fernandez
34th Senate District

Assemblyman Joseph M. Giglio
148th Assembly District

Assemblywoman Jodi Giglio
2nd Assembly District

Senator Kristen Gonzalez
59th Senate District

Senator Andrew Gounardes
26th Senate District

Assemblywoman Deborah J. Glick
66th Assembly District

Assemblyman Scott Gray
116th Assembly District

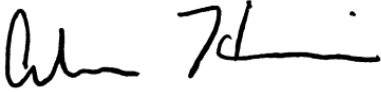
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31st Senate District



Assemblyman Jonathan G. Jacobson
104th Assembly District



Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal
47th Senate District



Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi
28th Assembly District



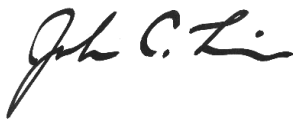
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Assemblywoman Pamela J. Hunter
128th Assembly District



Senator Tim Kennedy
63rd Senate District



Senator John C. Liu
16th Senate District



Assemblywoman Jen Lunsford
135th Assembly District



Assemblyman Brian Maher
101st Assembly District



Senator John Mannion
50th Senate District



Assemblyman Brian Manktelow
130th Assembly District



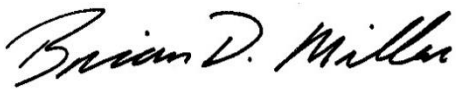
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48th Senate District



Senator Shelley B. Mayer
37th Senate District



Assemblyman John T. McDonald III
108th Assembly District



Assemblyman Brian D. Miller
122nd Assembly District



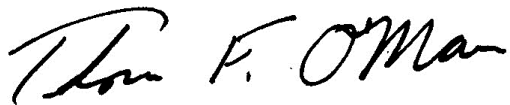
Assemblyman Angelo J. Morinello
145th Assembly District



Senator Zellnor Myrie
20th Senate District



Senator Peter Oberacker
51st Senate District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th Senate District



Assemblyman Philip A. Palmesano
132nd Assembly District



Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo
63rd Assembly District



Assemblyman Edward P. Ra
19th Assembly District



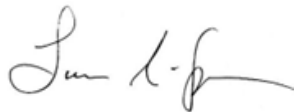
Senator Gustavo Rivera
33rd Senate District



Assemblywoman Linda B. Rosenthal
67th Assembly District



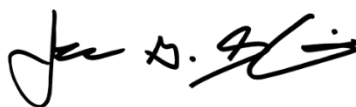
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Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda
32nd Senate District



Assemblyman Matthew Simpson
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Senator James Skoufis
42nd Senate District



Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
11th Senate District



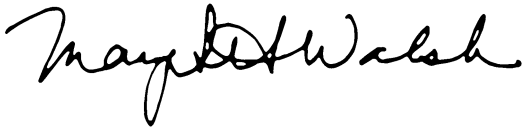
Assemblyman Al Stirpe
127th Assembly District



Assemblywoman Yudelka Tapia
86th Assembly District



Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
1st Assembly District



Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh
112th Assembly District



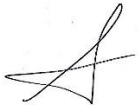
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52nd Senate District



Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner
113th Assembly District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
60th Senate District



Senator Kevin Thomas
6th Senate District



Assemblymember Anna Kelles
125th Assembly District