



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

William Larkin

## Larkin Bill To Connect Local Farmers With More Economic Resources Passes Senate

**WILLIAM LARKIN** February 29, 2016

Senator William Larkin (R-C, Cornwall-on-Hudson), today ushered through legislation to help provide additional economic development resources so that even more of New York's farmers can succeed and create jobs. The bill ([S2250](#)), which Senator Larkin sponsors, allows Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs) to expand their support of New York's agricultural economy by making technical and financial assistance available to farmers.

Senator Larkin said, "Today, farmers are faced with the task of producing more with less resources, and diminishing returns. We need to make sure our agricultural industry is given every opportunity to succeed and this bill, along with other programs put forth in the 2016 *Planting Seeds* initiative, will give our farmers much needed additional support at a time when they need it the most."

Under current law, IDAs can issue loans and provide technical support to manufacturers, processors, and warehouseers of agricultural products but not to those businesses that directly grow, harvest, or collect agricultural products.

Expanding the authorization of already existing IDAs - many of which are located in rural areas - will help promote job growth in industries such as fruit cultivation, raising of

beef and other animals, and additional agricultural pursuits.

This legislation continues Senator Larkin and his colleagues commitment to keeping New York's agriculture industry thriving. Earlier this month, the Senate Republican Conference also unveiled their *2016 Planting Seeds* initiative which builds upon key elements of the Senate Republicans' successful Young Farmers and Grown in New York programs. It would: restore funding to 40 agricultural programs that were cut in the 2016-17 Executive Budget; provide research, education, and marketing assistance; create new tax and regulatory relief; advance initiatives to expand markets, promote quality, and increase food safety; and create job opportunities for veterans and others interested in farming.

The bill will be sent to the Assembly.