

Petitioning The Commissioner Of The New York State Department Of Agriculture And Markets To Extend Review Dates For Ulster County Agricultural Districts 1, 2 And 3 Pursuant To New York State Agriculture And Markets Law - Department Of Planning

Referred to: The Economic Development and Tourism Committee (Chairman Maloney and Legislators Maio, Roberts, Loughran and Wishnick)

Chairman of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee James F. Maloney and Deputy Chairman Peter M. Loughran offer the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County contains four Agricultural Districts that are certified by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets; and

WHEREAS, Agricultural Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 have anniversary dates of February 18, 1973, September 10, 1973, December 14, 1973 and March 13, 1975, respectively; and

WHEREAS, according the Agricultural and Markets Law, Article Article 25 AA, Section 303(a), Certified Agricultural Districts are required to undergo review every eight years according to their respective anniversary date; and

WHEREAS, the required eight-year reviews for Ulster County's Agricultural Districts are approaching with review dates of February 18, 2013, September 10, 2013, December 14, 2013 and March 13, 2015, respectively; and

WHEREAS, eight year reviews mandate a substantial, concentrated effort, including but not limited to, district analysis, landowner notifications, public hearings, mapping and reporting in accordance with specifications and deadlines contained in Agricultural and Markets Law Article 303(a); and

WHEREAS, as support staff to the Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, the Ulster County Planning Department is the responsible entity for the execution of Agricultural District reviews; and

WHEREAS, Agricultural Districts 1, 2 and 3 have anniversary dates all occurring within one twelve month period which will impose an undue burden on the Ulster County Planning Department as well as the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board, and may lead to confusion among the farming community and affected municipalities as there may be multiple reviews in progress simultaneously; and

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WHEREAS, New York State Agricultural and Markets Law Article 25 AA, Section 303(a) provides that counties with multiple districts with review dates in any twelve month period may petition the New York State Agricultural Commissioner for an extension of up to four years for a district review; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, as advisory committee to the Ulster County Legislature with respect to Agricultural Districts, met on May 16, 2012 and unanimously agreed to request that the Ulster County Legislature petition the New York State Agricultural Commissioner to extend the anniversary dates for Agricultural Districts 1, 2 and 3, in a manner that separates their review times; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby petitions the New York State Agricultural Commissioner, in accordance with Agricultural and Markets Law Article 25 AA Section 303 (a), to extend the review dates for Ulster County Agricultural Districts 1, 2 and 3 as follows:

Agricultural District #	Anniversary Date	
	Existing	Requested
District 1	February 8, 2013	July 21, 2013
District 2	September 10, 2013	July 21, 2015
District 3	December 14, 2013	July 21, 2017

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Economic Development and Tourism on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE