NOFA-NY
NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

Memo of Support for the New York Food Safety & Chemical Disclosure Act

June 2025

On behalf of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY), we write in strong support of the **New York Food Safety & Chemical Disclosure Act (A1556C/S1239C)**, introduced by Assemblymember Dr. Anna Kelles and Senator Brian Kavanagh. This critical legislation addresses long-standing lack of transparency in the food chemical regulatory process and aligns with NOFA-NY's commitment to advancing the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Founded in 1983, NOFA-NY is the leading organization driving the growth of organic regenerative agriculture across New York State. We offer farmer-to-farmer education and technical support to farmers statewide, help connect consumers with local, organic products, and advocate for just and resilient food and farm systems. As a USDA-accredited organic certification body, NOFA-NY proudly certifies nearly half of New York's nearly 2,000 organic farms and businesses.

1. Grounding in Organic Principles

Due to the precautionary nature of organic certification, synthetic additives including those addressed by this legislation are already prohibited from organic production. However, these health precautions should not be limited to those with access to organic-certified food. We advocate for food and farming systems that sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet (IFOAM Principle of Health) and that are managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment (IFOAM Principle of Care). This legislation takes important steps to advance care and health in the food systems that nourish our communities.

2. Addressing the GRAS Loophole: Building Trust with Transparency

From farm to fork, crops are transformed into processed foods through industrial systems that often introduce chemical additives preservatives, flavor enhancers, and emulsifiers, are added. But processed food should be safe and nutritious–not filled with unvetted ingredients that lack strong evidence for safety. This bill takes a vital step towards rebuilding trust in our food system by requiring companies to disclose safety data for the chemicals they add. Farmers deserve to know that the food they grow supports, not undermines, public health, and consumers should be confident that the food they feed their families is safe.

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We strongly support the transparency this bill brings to the food system.

3. Protecting New Yorkers

This bill bans substances that are linked to cancer and reproductive harm. These chemicals have already been restricted from use in USDA certified organic production, and in California and the European Union. All New Yorkers deserve the same level of protection and as a leader in sustainable food production, we must also ensure that processed foods are safe and nourishing.

We are grateful to Assemblymember Kelles and Senator Kavanagh for championing this science-based, common-sense legislation. We urge swift passage of A1556C/S1239C and look forward to seeing New York take a leading role in building a safer, more transparent food system.

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