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**Memorandum of Support
S.6042 (Hinchey) and A.6947 (Barrett)**

The Preservation League of New York State is the statewide historic preservation nonprofit - leading advocacy, economic development and education programs across the state. **We write in support of Bill [S.6042](#) (Hinchey) and [A.6947](#) (Barrett) to provide a tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic barns.** In 2018 the existing New York State Historic Barn Rehabilitation Credit was negatively altered as a result of changes in federal tax code under the *Federal Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2017*. Today, we urge the Senate and Assembly to set right this obstacle to New York's ability to retain our agricultural heritage and revive the functional incentive to return these buildings to productive use.

The 25% tax credit promotes barn rehabilitation, vital in retaining remaining historic barns in every corner of the state. Not only does it pay homage to New York's agricultural history and architecture, it also provides opportunity for thoughtful reuse, community enjoyment, eliminating landscape decay, as well as circumvents the negative environmental impacts of demolition.

In particular, this incentive helps revitalize regions that have been hit hard over the last several decades with disinvestment and the continual shift farther away from agriculture. It will inspire a new era of entrepreneurs ranging from farmers to tourism and contribute to economic vitality in New York State. This will all be accomplished while keeping the historic appearance and architecture intact on the impressive structures within our landscape.

Since 2015, this program has contributed to the successful rehabilitation of nearly 50 barns across the state. Thanks to the 2017 federal tax code changes, a small number of barns currently qualify for this incentive and only a handful of those have received the credit in the past couple years.

The Preservation League receives more requests for financial assistance with barn restoration than any other building type. This much-needed legislation will fill a large gap. An annual program report delivered to the legislature would help demonstrate the program's effectiveness for future advocacy, as well as identify areas for outreach strengthening. We strongly support this legislation and urge the NYS Legislature to pass it within this legislative session.