



Cannabis Farmers Alliance

www.CannabisFarmers.org

April 9, 2024

Subject: Open Letter to Governor Kathy Hochul to Engage with the NY Senate and Assembly and the Cannabis Farmers Relief/Recompense Fund.

Dear Governor Huchul:

The situation facing our state's cannabis farmers has reached a critical point of urgency, demanding your immediate and decisive action. As a representative of the Cannabis Farmers Alliance, I write to you not just with a plea but with a dire warning: without swift intervention from your office, we risk witnessing the collapse of a vital sector of our economy. These farmers, central to the cannabis supply chain, have endured overwhelming financial losses, with a staggering 97% of them operating at a loss. The time to act is not tomorrow; it is today.

The slow rollout of the cannabis program has inflicted severe harm on these vital operators, leading to job losses, farm closures, and a significant erosion of the potential tax revenues and economic benefits that a thriving cannabis industry promises our state. This crisis not only threatens the livelihoods of our farmers but also the economic wellbeing of our communities at large.

We acknowledge and value the Senate's commitment of \$128 million and the Assembly's allocation of \$80 million for the 2024 budget. This legislative recognition of the crisis underscores the necessity for urgent executive action. Your leadership is now the critical missing piece needed to avert disaster and ensure these funds are directed promptly and effectively to those in dire need.

In the closing days of the budget process, we urgently call upon you, Governor, to prioritize the salvation and revitalization of our cannabis farms. It is imperative that this issue be addressed with the highest urgency in your agenda, marking a pivotal moment for your administration to demonstrate its commitment to the agricultural backbone of our state's emerging cannabis industry.

This appeal for urgent action is twofold: we need immediate intervention to provide relief to our farmers and a long-term strategy to prevent such crises in the future. Your decisive action now can transform the landscape of the cannabis industry, ensuring its viability and prosperity for years to come.

Let us not delay any longer. The futures of our farmers, their families, and the economic fabric of our state hang in the balance. We implore you to act now, Governor, to reverse the industry's course towards a future where cannabis farms are not merely surviving but flourishing.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Calderone, Co-Founder & Acting President
Cannabis Farmers Alliance (CFA)

