New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Bill # **A 497** Woerner Same as **S 2128** Gallivan

Title: **An act to amend the tax law, in relation to establishing the venison donation tax credit**

This legislation would amend section 606 of the tax law to create a refundable tax credit for venison donation to a nonprofit organization.

Justification:

The NYSCC supports legislation that would provide a refundable tax credit for hunters who harvest a deer and donate it to a local food bank. Venison meat is one of the leanest and healthiest forms of animal protein and it is highly desired by food banks.

The goal of this legislation is to increase the amount of venison donated to food banks to feed needy New Yorkers while at the same time helping to achieve deer population management goals. Deer numbers in several areas of the state are well above the level desired for overall population health.

Since their capacity to store the meat is limited, hunters often do not take the number of deer to which they are legally eligible. As a result, the total harvest is less than is required to maintain the desired population densities. Providing a tax credit will incentivize hunters to harvest more deer while simultaneously benefiting the food banks.

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