

**SENATE . . . . . No. 375**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Mr. Brewer**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act protecting the viability of farms in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Mr. Brewer	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin
Michael R. Knapik	Second Hampden and Hampshire
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Thomas M. McGee	Third Essex and Middlesex
Anne M. Gobi	5th Worcester
Robert L. Rice, Jr.	2nd Worcester

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S00476 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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### AN ACT PROTECTING THE VIABILITY OF FARMS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. MassDevelopment is hereby authorized and directed to establish, subject to  
2 appropriation, a loan program, to be administered in consultation with the commissioner of the  
3 department of agricultural resources, to provide loans on favorable terms and conditions to  
4 farmers and groups of farmers for the following purposes: marketing of agricultural products  
5 grown in Massachusetts; development of agricultural producer cooperatives; development or  
6 improvement of innovative agricultural enterprises, including but not limited to enterprises  
7 producing value-added or organically produced agricultural products; execution of business  
8 plans approved by the commissioner of the department of agricultural resources pursuant to the  
9 Farm Viability Enhancement Program or similar programs; compliance with environmental laws  
10 or regulations; and agricultural activities undertaken by qualified beginning farmers. In  
11 establishing the loan program authorized under this section, MassDevelopment shall utilize, to  
12 the extent practicable and appropriate to making available loans on favorable terms and  
13 conditions for the purposes described in this section, arrangements with private lending  
14 institutions involving linked deposits, loan guarantees, sharing of administrative costs, and other  
15 means deemed appropriate by MassDevelopment.