

## Taste of New York Reception

In the evening of Monday, February 27th we were able to join dozens of other businesses and organizations that represent counties, businesses, and organizations across the state of New York for a Taste of New York Reception. We were able to welcome hundreds of visitors made up of New York State representatives, farm bureau representatives from across the state of the New York, and folks of all kinds that work in the New York State Legislative Office Building. At our booth, we distributed countless samples of delicious products that had been locally produced by our vendors.



In addition to sharing the decadent flavors of the CNY Regional Market -- which turned out to be a big hit amongst the crowd-- we were able to meet a lot of state representatives and share the story of our market. The connections that were made at this event were countless and invaluable, with opportunities to connect with: Commissioner Ball from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Senator May, Senator Mannion, Assemblyman Magnorelli, Assemblyman Lemondes, and countless others.

## **Lobbying Meetings**

The following morning, we woke up bright and early -- braving the weather -- to make our way back to the New York State Legislative Office Building. On Tuesday, February 28th, we joined up with other representatives of Agriculture in Onondaga County, for meetings with Senators and Assemblymembers who represent our county. Maximizing our efforts to divide and conquer, we attended meetings with: Senators May, Senator Mannion, Assemblyman Magnarelli, Assemblyman Stirpe, and Assemblyman Lemandes. Later that day, we partnered up with representatives from Broome County to attend



a meeting with Assemblywoman Lupardo. In these meetings, we were given the opportunity to not only share materials explaining our project and facility goals, but to also speak with these representatives about our overall project and how investment in the project pairs perfectly with several of the currently legislative initiatives in the state of New York.

These meetings allowed us to make huge strides in our efforts to share the story and needs of our Market, as not only one of the largest year-round retail markets in our nation, but also as one of the only New York State Authorities operating without the aid of public funding.