

RESOLUTION # 28

FARMER MEMBERS ON THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1 **WHEREAS**, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) oversees the
2 Farmland Preservation and Right to Farm programs in New Jersey under the Agriculture
3 Retention and Development Act (ARDA); and

4 **WHEREAS**, the SADC includes among its members, by law, four people “actively
5 engaged in farming,” in New Jersey as farmers, who provide invaluable knowledge and
6 expertise on farming to the SADC’s deliberations on various issues; and

7 **WHEREAS**, by law, “...with respect to the members actively engaged in farming, the
8 State Board of Agriculture shall recommend to the Governor a list of potential candidates
9 and their alternates to be considered for each appointment”; and

10 **WHEREAS**, by law, “all appointments shall be made for terms of four years. Each of
11 these members shall hold office for the term of the appointment and until a successor shall
12 have been appointed and qualified. A member shall be eligible for reappointment for no
13 more than two consecutive terms”; and

14 **WHEREAS**, SADC’s farmer members, due to the nature of their businesses, are
15 more likely than other SADC members to be put in a situation where they cannot attend a
16 meeting, especially during their busiest on-farm seasons; and

17 **WHEREAS**, it would benefit the discussion of issues before the SADC during those
18 meetings, when farmer members cannot attend, for farmer members to be able to send a
19 “substitute” in their place, much as ex officio SADC members can do.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 103rd State
21 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 7-8, 2018, do
22 hereby strongly urge the State Board of Agriculture to promptly make the required
23 recommendation to the Governor of at least one of the farmer members and an alternate to
24 be considered for appointment as soon as possible so that the holdover farmer members can

25 be replaced on an orderly basis though the staggered appointments originally provided for in
26 the law.

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge that the existing law be
28 amended to provide authority for "substitute" farmer members to be named to allow the full
29 complement of farmer representation to participate in any SADC meetings when the
30 appointed farmer member cannot attend, and to empower such substitute to cast votes for
31 those members.

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we urge a change in the existing law that would
33 provide for an appointed SADC farmer member to send a substitute (in the place of the
34 appointed farmer member if they could not attend an SADC meeting), provided that the
35 substitute is chosen by the President of the State Board of Agriculture, in consultation with
36 the State Board Vice President, and is a former State Board member in good standing.