

RESOLUTION # 15

PINELANDS

1 **WHEREAS**, as of October 10, 2019, there have been 2,639 farms covering 236,107
2 acres permanently preserved through the Farmland Preservation Program, including 135
3 farms covering 15, 602 acres in the Pinelands; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the permanent preservation of farmland within the Pinelands Area is
5 consistent with the goals and objectives of the Pinelands Protection Act, the Pinelands
6 Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the Agriculture Retention and Development Act
7 (ARDA), and the Garden State Preservation Trust Act (GSPT Act); and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Pinelands Commission established a formal agriculture committee
9 in 2015 comprised entirely of commission members to review and make recommendations to
10 the full Commission about agriculture-related matters, including proposed amendments to
11 the Comprehensive Management Plan, permitting requirements, proposed legislation and
12 rulemaking by other agencies.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 105th State
14 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 5-6, 2020,
15 support the State Agriculture Development Committee's (SADC) ongoing efforts to promote
16 the enrollment of Pinelands farms into the State Farmland Preservation Program through all
17 of the SADC's programs.

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the SADC to continue allowing both
19 appraisal valuations and formula valuations for each application submitted in order to make
20 an offer to the landowner based on the higher of the two values.

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Legislature to pass and the
22 Governor to sign legislation that would allow all Pinelands Commission members to fully
23 participate in deliberations and voting on any amendments to the CMP, while respecting
24 conflict of interest concerns related to specific issues that would impact individual
25 landowners.

26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage the Pinelands Commission to
27 explore adding non-voting farmer members to its new Agriculture Committee and seek the
28 active participation of the agricultural community by reactivating the Pinelands Agriculture
29 Advisory Committee and utilizing it as a resource in deliberations about agriculture-related
30 matters that come before this new Committee.

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage that any amendments to the
32 Pinelands CMP or PDC program that have an effect on agricultural interests, such as those
33 being proposed regarding housing density in towns and regional growth areas and new
34 mandatory PDC allocations for residential development, be done only in a manner that does
35 not diminish or dilute the demand for, or market value of, PDCs.

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage the active participation of the
37 agricultural community in the development of any amendments to the Pinelands CMP or
38 PDC program that have an effect on agricultural interests, through consultation with the
39 Pinelands Agricultural Advisory Committee or other such body representing the landowners
40 of the Pinelands Area.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Governor to immediately nominate a
42 member to the Pinelands Commission to represent economic activities, such as agriculture,
43 consistent with Article 5.b of the Pinelands Protection Act.