

## RESOLUTION # 29

### PINELANDS

1           **WHEREAS**, as of December 18, 2020, there have been 2,692 farms covering  
2           239,156 acres permanently preserved through the Farmland Preservation Program,  
3           including 136 farms covering 15,688 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 106<sup>th</sup> State  
14          Agricultural Convention, assembled through a virtual platform hosted in Trenton, New  
15          Jersey, in accordance with COVID-19 pandemic recommendations, on February 17, 2021,  
16          support the State Agriculture Development Committee's (SADC) ongoing efforts to promote  
17          the enrollment of Pinelands farms into the State Farmland Preservation Program through all  
18          of the SADC's programs.

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

22          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Legislature to pass and the  
23          Governor to sign legislation that would allow all Pinelands Commission members to fully  
24          participate in deliberations and voting on any amendments to the CMP, while respecting

25 conflict of interest concerns related to specific issues that would impact individual  
26 landowners.

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

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

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

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