

RESOLUTION # 10

IN APPRECIATION OF SENATOR STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

1 **WHEREAS**, Stephen M. Sweeney has served in the New Jersey Senate since 2002,
2 and has been the Senate President from 2010 until the end of the most recent full session;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, Senator Sweeney has served his entire Legislative career representing
5 New Jersey's 3rd District, which includes heavily agricultural areas in Gloucester, Salem, and
6 Cumberland counties; and

7 **WHEREAS**, reflecting the constituency in that district, Senator Sweeney has long
8 been a fervent advocate for the needs of farmers and related agricultural business owners
9 and workers; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the agriculture-related legislative initiatives Senator Sweeney has
11 championed over two decades of service include, but are not limited to, a package of bills to
12 help farmers financially offset recent increases in the state's minimum wage, a measure to
13 have the Department of Agriculture reimburse dairy farmers for premiums they pay for price-
14 margin insurance, and a bill to require that any fresh produce advertised as "Local" or
15 "Locally Grown," or implied by retailers or wholesalers to be so, must have been grown and
16 packed in New Jersey; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Senator Sweeney frequently has taken time to address the State
18 Agricultural Convention, either during the delegates' time on the Convention floor or as the
19 featured speaker at the Convention dinner, and has always offered frank, candid comments,
20 even when his views differed from those of the majority of delegates; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Senator Sweeney was a much-needed voice for the state's agricultural
22 industry when, in 2008, the Department of Agriculture was facing elimination as a standing
23 department in the state's executive branch; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Senator Sweeney's longtime friendship and 3rd District connection with
25 current Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher (who served as one of the 3rd District

26 Assemblymen and was the Chairman of the Assembly Agriculture Committee before
27 becoming Secretary) has led to a continuation of the importance both men placed on
28 agriculture in the Legislature, as evidenced in the Secretary's approach to his work as the
29 head of the Department.

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 107th State
31 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, N.J., on February 9-10, 2022, do hereby
32 acknowledge the many accomplishments of Senator Stephen M. Sweeney in his advocacy
33 for New Jersey agriculture during his more than 20 years in the New Jersey Senate, and
34 wish him all success in his future endeavors.