

RESOLUTION # 32

PINELANDS

1 **WHEREAS**, as of December 14, 2014, there have been 2,295 farms covering
2 212,129 acres permanently preserved through the Farmland Preservation Program,
3 including 99 farms covering 13,033 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
7 Act (ARDA), and the Garden State Preservation Trust Act (GSPT Act).

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 100th
9 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 4-5,
10 2015, support the State Agriculture Development Committee's (SADC) ongoing efforts to
11 promote the enrollment of Pinelands farms into the State Farmland Preservation
12 Program through all of the SADC's programs.

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

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the SADC to take necessary actions
17 to ensure that farms preserved through the sale of Pinelands Development Credits
18 (PDCs) be afforded the same eligibility for soil and water cost-share funds as those
19 preserved through the Farmland Preservation Program.

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge an interpretation of the intent of the
21 Pinelands Protection Act – to allow all Pinelands Commission members to fully
22 participate in deliberations and voting on any amendments to the CMP, while respecting

23 conflict of interest concerns related to specific issues that would impact individual
24 landowners.

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

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

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