

RESOLUTION # 45

FARMING ON PUBLIC LANDS

1 **WHEREAS**, throughout New Jersey, there exists publicly owned land that is
2 actively farmed under lease agreements between farmers and governmental entities of
3 the state, county or local level; and

4 **WHEREAS**, these lands remain a critical component of the available agricultural
5 land base in the state; and

6 **WHEREAS**, farmers have expressed some concerns about the terms of these
7 lease agreements; and

8 **WHEREAS**, these concerns include questions about certain restrictions or
9 encumbrances imposed upon farmers that, in some instances, hinder agricultural
10 production; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there is no uniform, statewide model for renting these lands for
12 agricultural purposes, increasing the risk of inconsistencies and individualized use
13 restrictions in lease agreements that can impede or limit generally accepted farming
14 practices; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in some instances, farmers make substantial investments in rented
16 ground as a means of enhancing an individual parcel's agricultural productivity for the
17 long-term, and thus are negatively impacted by exceedingly short-term lease
18 arrangements.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 101st
20 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 10-
21 11, 2016, do hereby urge the State Board of Agriculture and Department of Agriculture,
22 along with the New Jersey Farm Bureau, to review the current status of lease
23 arrangements for agricultural purposes throughout the state to determine the potential

24 for enhancing the predictability and consistency of land-leasing arrangements for
25 agricultural purposes at the state, county and local level, where appropriate.

26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the State Board, Department and
27 New Jersey Farm Bureau to solicit the input of county boards of agriculture and
28 commodity organizations and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) be
29 consulted on lands leased for farming as part of this review process.

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