

## RESOLUTION # 41

### FARMER MEMBERS ON THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1           **WHEREAS**, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) oversees the  
2 Farmland Preservation and Right to Farm programs in New Jersey under the Agriculture  
3 Retention and Development Act (ARDA); and

4           **WHEREAS**, the SADC includes among its members, by law, four people  
5 “actively engaged in farming,” in New Jersey as farmers, who provide invaluable  
6 knowledge and expertise on farming to the SADC’s deliberations on various issues; and

7           **WHEREAS**, by law, “...with respect to the members actively engaged in farming,  
8 the State Board of Agriculture shall recommend to the Governor a list of potential  
9 candidates and their alternates to be considered for each appointment” and

10           **WHEREAS**, by law, “all appointments shall be made for terms of four  
11 years. Each of these members shall hold office for the term of the appointment and until  
12 a successor shall have been appointed and qualified. A member shall be eligible for  
13 reappointment for no more than two consecutive terms “; and

14           **WHEREAS**, SADC’s farmer members, due to the nature of their businesses, are  
15 more likely than other SADC members to be put in a situation where they cannot attend  
16 a meeting, especially during their busiest on-farm seasons; and

17           **WHEREAS**, it would benefit the discussion of issues before the SADC during  
18 those meetings, when farmer members cannot attend, for farmer members to be able to  
19 send a “substitute” in their place, much as ex officio SADC members can.

20           **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 102<sup>nd</sup>  
21 State Agricultural Convention, gather in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9,  
22 2017, do hereby strongly urge the State Board of Agriculture to promptly make the  
23 required recommendation to the Governor of at least one of the farmer members and

24 alternate to be considered for appointment as soon as possible so that the holdover  
25 farmer members can be replaced on an orderly basis though the staggered  
26 appointments originally provided for in the law.

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge that the existing law be  
28 amended to provide authority for substitute farmer members to be named to allow the  
29 full complement of farmer representation to participate in any SADC meetings when the  
30 appointed farmer member cannot attend, and to empower such substitute to cast votes  
31 for those members.