

RESOLUTION # 32

PINELANDS

1 **WHEREAS**, as of December 2, 2016, there have been 2,440 farms covering
2 223,386 acres permanently preserved through the Farmland Preservation Program,
3 including 144 farms covering 17,253 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); and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Pinelands Commission established a formal agriculture
9 committee in 2015 comprised entirely of commission members to review and make
10 recommendations to the full Commission about agriculture-related matters, including
11 proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Management Plan, permitting
12 requirements, proposed legislation and rulemaking by other agencies.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 102nd
14 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 8-9,
15 2017, support the State Agriculture Development Committee's (SADC) ongoing efforts to
16 promote the enrollment of Pinelands farms into the State Farmland Preservation
17 Program through all of the SADC's programs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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