

## RESOLUTION # 7

### BEEKEEPING AND RIGHT TO FARM

1           **WHEREAS**, commercial honey and hive products, and crop pollination by  
2 honeybees, are vital components of New Jersey agriculture; and

3           **WHEREAS**, because honeybees forage over airsheds measured in square miles,  
4 not acres, New Jersey's commercial beekeepers provide their pollination services to  
5 other commodity producers, and produce honey and hive products without the necessity  
6 for control of their own land base, unlike all other types of commercial agriculture; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the Right to Farm Act is intended to protect Commercial Farms  
8 engaged in generally accepted agricultural management practices from over-restrictive  
9 local regulation nuisance lawsuits; and

10           **WHEREAS**, the present definition of "Commercial Farm" in the Right to Farm Act  
11 unnecessarily excludes most commercial beekeepers who follow generally accepted  
12 agricultural management practices from Right to Farm protections because those  
13 beekeepers do not operate sufficient acreage to achieve Commercial Farm status within  
14 reasonably achievable levels of income derived from the production of honey and hive  
15 products, and from pollination services; and

16           **WHEREAS**, unnecessary exclusion of commercial beekeepers from Right to  
17 Farm Act protections burdens not only the commercial beekeepers who independently  
18 compose a vital part of New Jersey's agriculture, but also the growers throughout the  
19 state of commodities which are dependent upon honeybees for pollination; and

20           **WHEREAS**, legislation (A-1294 and S-1328) has been introduced to extend  
21 Right to Farm protection to commercial beekeepers, with some restrictions, and the  
22 Assembly version passed that house by a vote of 78-0, with the Senate version pending  
23 in the Senate Economic Growth Committee.

24                   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 100<sup>th</sup>  
25                   State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 4-5,  
26                   2015, urge the New Jersey Legislature to support the New Jersey beekeeping industry,  
27                   and the state’s many growers of honeybee-dependent crops, through amendment of the  
28                   definition in the Right to Farm Act of “Commercial Farm” to reflect the significant  
29                   commercial agricultural activities and contributions of beekeepers with small land bases.

30                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Legislature to adopt a definition  
31                   of Commercial Farm specific to beekeeping that focuses exclusively, for purposes of  
32                   Right to Farm qualification for beekeeping activities only, on an appropriate level of  
33                   income derived from production of honey and hive products, and from pollination  
34                   services.

35                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge passage by the Legislature and  
36                   signing by the Governor of legislation (A-1294 and S-1328) that extends Right to Farm  
37                   protection to commercial beekeepers, with some restrictions.