

1 **2022 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture & Rural Affairs**
3 **Resolution #3**

4 **Expressing Frustration with the Lack of Local Input in Renewable Energy**
5 **Siting and the Conversion of Farmland**

6 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to continue New York’s position as a leader in food
7 production, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Agriculture and Rural
8 Affairs Committee wishes to convey to the Governor and State Legislature the need for a
9 balance between food production and renewable energy production; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the state should level the playing field to incentivize landowners to protect
11 productive farmland; and

12 **WHEREAS**, prime farmland naturally captures carbon dioxide and should be
13 conserved wherever possible; and

14 **WHEREAS**, state law sets a 70 percent goal of renewable energy production by 2030;
15 however, the Committee believes additional time is necessary to achieve this balance;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, incentives should be focused on locations that are not suitable for food
18 production; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
20 (NYSERDA) and Office of Renewable Energy Siting need to engage in closer
21 coordination with each other and the agricultural sector.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NYSAC Agriculture and Rural
23 Affairs Committee expresses frustration with the lack of local input in renewable energy
24 siting and the conversion of productive farmland to energy production; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that incentives should be rebalanced to protect
26 productive farmland, and the State’s timetable for meeting its renewable energy
27 production goals should be extended; and

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
29 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of
30 Agriculture and Markets, and all others deemed necessary and proper.