

1 **2021 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Agriculture & Rural Affairs**
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution to Support Funding for Farmland Preservation and Agriculture**
5 **Local Assistance Programs**

6 **WHEREAS**, the agriculture industry remains a top contributor to the New York State
7 economy, providing critical jobs, revenues and food for our state and beyond; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the agricultural sector, farms and related food system are major economic
9 engines in New York State; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the enacted 2020/21 budget allocated \$20 million to farmland protection
11 and \$33,243,000 to agriculture local assistance programs; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Governor's 2021/22 proposed budget allocated \$20 million to
13 farmland preservation and \$27,408,000 to agriculture local assistance programs; and

14 **WHEREAS**, New York's farmland protection and agriculture assistance programs help
15 sustain this vital industry; and

16 **WHEREAS**, while funding for farmland protection and agriculture assistance has
17 grown, there is no guarantee that this level of funding will be continued in future years;
18 and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, more than 30 percent of the farmers in New York State who cultivate two
21 million acres of land are 65 years of age or older; and

22 **WHEREAS**, research shows that over 90 percent of these senior farmers do not have a
23 young farmer working alongside them to help manage their business; and

24 **WHEREAS**, farmland in transition is most vulnerable to being sold out of farming;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, access to affordable land suitable to starting a new farm operation is the
27 number one barrier new and beginning farmers face when trying to get started; and

28 **WHEREAS**, there were 30 percent fewer young farmers in New York in 2012 than in
29 2002; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, farmland protection is an important contributor to successful farmland
32 transition and affordable farmland access.

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
34 Counties calls upon Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and New York State Legislature to
35 continue New York's commitment to local farms and the agricultural sector by

1 maintaining funding for farmland protection from the State Environmental Protection
2 Fund at \$20 million and agriculture local assistance programs at \$33,243,000 in the FY
3 2021/22 budget; and

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the 62 counties of
5 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties shall
7 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State
8 Legislature, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, and all others deemed
9 necessary and proper.