

**TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
R-175-20**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MUNICIPAL FARMLAND PRESERVATION
EFFORTS AND GOALS AS INDICATED IN THE 2020 MUNICIPAL “PIG” COMPLIANCE
STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, beginning in 2007, the State Agriculture Development Committee (“SADC”) required the development of a Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan in order for interested municipalities to qualify for local farmland preservation funding through the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (“PIG”) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin undertook the task to develop the Township of Franklin Farmland Preservation Plan (“the Plan”), with said Plan receiving final approval by the SADC in 2010; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Municipal PIG Program, the Township of Franklin was required to submit a Municipal PIG application to the SADC, along with the submission of an annual compliance statement confirming that the Township was, and is, meeting its municipal farmland preservation goals; and

WHEREAS, the SADC recently indicated that all future annual compliance statements must be accompanied by a resolution from the municipal governing body indicating that said body approves and remains supportive of the municipal farmland preservation efforts goals as indicated in the Plan and compliance statement: and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on November 9, 2020, the Franklin Township Agriculture Advisory Committee discussed the annual compliance statement to be submitted by December 15, 2020, and specifically noted the following recent accomplishments:

- (a) Since the establishment of the Farmland Preservation Program, the Township of Franklin has preserved and/or helped to preserve approximately 3,148 acres of municipal farmland.
- (b) In the past year the Township of Franklin has assisted in the preservation of two farms, totaling 208 acres (preserved through the Municipal PIG Program and the State Direct Easement Program).
- (c) A total of 10 properties totaling more than 540 acres are currently in the preservation process or have indicated their interest in the preservation program and are under evaluation.
- (d) The Township of Franklin is currently in the process of updating its Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan to ensure the document continues to be an effective component in the planning of future preservation efforts.
- (e) The Township of Franklin is in the process of revising its land use provisions to recognize agriculture as a permitted use in all zoning districts, which will provide Right-to-Farm protection for all qualified commercial farms, and will allow the submission of farmland preservation applications from qualified properties previously denied that opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, that said body approves and remains supportive of the municipal farmland preservation efforts and goals as indicated in the Franklin Township Farmland Preservation Plan and the annual Municipal PIG compliance statement.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution, along with the 2020 compliance statement, to the Gloucester County Office of Land Preservation and the State Agriculture Development Committee as required.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin on Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN

Barbara Freijomil, Clerk

BY: _____
John Bruno, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Barbara Freijomil, Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and duly adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting of the Franklin Township Committee held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

BARBARA FREIJOMIL, CLERK