

## **A RESOLUTION OPPOSING A-323/S-2074**

**WHEREAS**, A-323 was approved by the General Assembly on March 15, 2012 and has been received in the state Senate and referred to the Senate Economic Growth Committee, joining its Senate companion, S-2074; and

**WHEREAS**, A-323/S-2074 would permit owners of preserved farmland to hold “special occasion events,” such as weddings or other “lifetime milestone events,” on their farms, provided that the annual income from those events accounts for less than 50% of the annual gross income of the preserved farmland; and

**WHEREAS**, A-323/S-2074 would permit activities on farmlands that have no connection to agriculture, and would transform those farms into conventional commercial or quasi-commercial “event venues”; and

**WHEREAS**, A-323/S-2074 would subvert the purpose of the Farmland Preservation Program, as well as the purpose of the New Jersey Right to Farm Act; and

**WHEREAS**, A-323/S-2074 directly contradicts the sensible interpretation of the Right to Farm Act that has been advanced by the State Agricultural Development Committee, which has determined that weddings and other “life milestone events” are not agricultural-related activities within the meaning of the Right to Farm statute; and

**WHEREAS**, A-323/S-2074 makes no provision for local control or regulation over these events, despite the obvious noise, traffic and public safety issues they raise; and

**WHEREAS**, A-323/S-2074 makes no provision for interests of other municipal stakeholders - such as residents of the surrounding neighborhood, other commercial enterprises, or local elected officials – that might be directly affected by the frequency and duration of the events it permits; and

**WHEREAS**, A-323/S-2074 takes a “one-size-fits-all” approach that fails to recognize the diversity of New Jersey’s municipalities, and that does not permit each municipality to tailor its approach to “special events” to its particular balance of residential, agricultural, commercial and rural land uses; and

**WHEREAS**, (insert name of municipality) believes it in its best interests, and in the best interests of the State of New Jersey, that A-323/S-2074 not be enacted in its present form;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing body of the (insert name of municipality) formally opposes the enactment of A-323/S-2074 into law as written, for the reasons set forth above, and urges all members of the state legislature to oppose the legislation and to work for its withdrawal or amendment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution, once adopted, be forwarded to Senator (fill in name of State Senator), Senate President Sweeney, members of the Senate Economic Growth Committee, the State Agricultural Development Committee, the League of Municipalities, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.