

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
MOUNT OLIVE OPPOSING THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

WHEREAS, the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, is a rural with agricultural community which enjoys the quality of life and economic benefits from farms and farming; and

WHEREAS, Chester Township is an active participant in farmland preservation and has preserved a number of farms and open space properties; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is nationally recognized as the Garden State and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture supports the farming profession with essential services for plant inspection and trade, animal health and transport, inspection and promotion of “Jersey Fresh” produce and organic certification; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture develops the school nutrition guidelines and operations pursuant to the federal school meal programs, as well as emergency food purchase and distribution linking New Jersey farms with nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jon Corzine has initiated an effort to abolish the New Jersey Department of Agriculture as an alleged cost cutting measure. The abolition of the Department of Agriculture would result in no substantial savings to the taxpayers of the State and would result in a reduction of services to farms, farmers, and citizens of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that it does hereby oppose any effort to abolish the

New Jersey Department of Agriculture and supports critical funding of the Department's essential program.

Raymond T. Perkins
Council President

I, HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mount Olive Township Council at a duly convened meeting held on March 25, 2008.

Lisa M. Lashway
Township Clerk