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Because Agriculture Matters!

June 12, 2025

To: Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

From: Allen Carter, President

Re: FY’26 state budget – support for agriculture

It is our understanding that the budget bill for the fiscal year starting July 1 has been tentatively assembled and is nearing final voting. We wish to have you favorably consider a budget resolution that would be highly beneficial to the farming industry and respectfully request your support for it.

The resolution in question is identified as “New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) at Rutgers University,” located inside the Rutgers University heading under the Department of Higher Education. Behind the lead of Sen. John Burzichelli, a budget resolution in the approximate amount of $4.3 million is now filed and will be part of the voting in a few days. This funding will exactly restore three separate cuts to the current funding level proposed in the governor’s budget.

These current funds have been enormously useful to the longstanding research, education and technical service information support provided to farmers throughout the state by NJAES and outlined on the attached. New Jersey farmers produce commodities in excess of $1.5 billion annually (wholesale value) and the requested funding restoration is vital to sustaining those services. The NJAES director and administrative staff argue that every $1 of this state funding assistance results in a seven-fold multiplier to the state’s economy.

This NJAES request is Farm Bureau’s top fiscal priority in the state budget this year. We would be pleased if you would consider co-sponsorship of this resolution, or if not that then a favorable vote when the time is appropriate in the next week or so.

Thank you for your consideration and feel free to contact our office across from the Statehouse if we can elaborate on this (609-393-7163 and ask for Peter Furey or Ashley Kerr).

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Cc: Senator John Burzichelli

Dr. Laura Lawson, NJAES director

Ed Wengryn, Secretary of Agriculture