



**THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET
NEW JERSEY**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
20 GROVE STREET P.O. BOX 3003 SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08876-1262
(908) 231-7033 FAX (908) 231-8754
TDD (908) 231-7168
freeholdersoffice@co.somerset.nj.us

RICK FONTANA
Freeholder Director
KEN SCHERER
Freeholder Deputy Director
DENISE COYLE
Freeholder
PETER S. PALMER
Freeholder
ROBERT ZABOROWSKI
Freeholder

April 26, 2005

Susan Craft, Executive Director
State Agriculture Development Committee
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625 - 0330

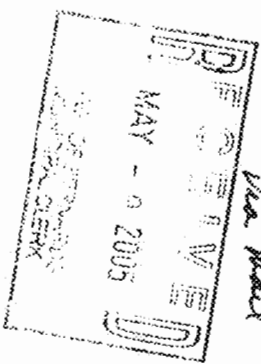
Re: **Bernards Township Farmland Preservation
Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Application**

Dear Ms. Craft:

As Director of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, I am writing this letter regarding Somerset County's potential funding participation in Bernards Township's PIG grant application. The farms identified on their list of targeted farms conform to Somerset County's Agriculture Development Area (ADA) criteria. Preservation of these parcels is consistent with the goals and intent of the County's Agriculture Master Plan. The County's Agriculture Development Board has heard a presentation by Bernards regarding their application and priority list of farms, and has expressed support of its intent.

The County Freeholder Board is supportive of Somerset County municipalities proposing "PIG" applications that contain farm parcels which prove to be within adopted ADA's and meet County and State program objectives and funding criteria. Funding may be provided for the purchase of development easements only for the farms identified in this application, subject to approval on a case by case basis for each farm, provided that:

- The grant application has or will be approved by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC);
- Full funding of the state's share of the grant has been or will be available by the Garden State Preservation Trust;
- The amount of funding provided by the County will not exceed an amount equal to that being provided by the Bernards Township, exclusive of soft and ancillary costs;



*Please cc E. Serge
D. Barnick
via mail*

RICHARD E. WILLIAMS
County Administrator
(908) 231-7040
BARBARA A. LUCAS
Clerk of the Board
KATHRYN QUICK
Deputy Clerk

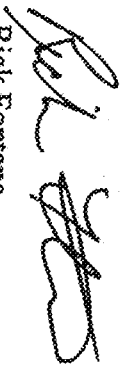
*cc TC
T. Williams
J. McLean
J. Williams*

The County will cost share based upon the SADC's Certified Market Value for each subject farm;

The municipality shall provide a resolution from its Farmland Advisory Committee in support of the purchase.

Somerset County looks forward to assisting Bernards Township with their farmland preservation efforts under this Planning Incentive Grant.

Sincerely,



Rick Fontana
Freeholder Director

cc: Freeholder Ken Scherer, SCADB Liaison
Honorable Carolyn Kelly, Mayor Bernards Township
George Dealman, Vice-Chairman SCADB
Anthony V. McCracken Sr. AICP/PP, Adm. Planner