

New Jersey

Year 2018

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Monmouth County



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Susan E. Payne, SADC Executive Director
P O Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08629

September 10, 2018

Re: Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Rule Amendment Proposal

Dear Ms. Payne,

The New Jersey County Planners Association (NJCPA), an affiliate of the New Jersey Association of Counties, is the professional organization where Planners from the 21 counties across the state can meet regularly and discuss issues of mutual concern. As many County Agricultural Development Boards (CADBs) are staffed by County Planning Departments, we find that issues of concern to CADBs are often brought to the association's attention. I am writing to you today to express concerns about the proposed rule amendment for the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) program.

Several counties have shared concerns with our association's Open Space, Agriculture and Environment Committee, who in turn, shared these concerns with me. I would like to echo the overriding themes we have heard and encourage you to give serious consideration and priority to these concerns.

One issue that was consistently identified was the seeming indifference given for the busy season during which the proposal was released. By design, Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and CADB memberships include a significant number of farmers. As I am sure you know, farmers find the summer a difficult season to spare time for matters beyond their day to day farming activities. Some boards had already cancelled meetings when the proposal was shared, reducing or removing the ability to have open discussions with their membership. We strongly urge you in the future to consider the timing of such things as a request for review and comment. Reducing base grants in favor of competitive grants was another common concern raised by CADBs, as was the potential impact of the proposal on the ability to preserve smaller farms. I know the CADBs appreciated the opportunity to comment and as they made the effort to do so, I hope you will seriously consider their recommendations. Should you wish to discuss this further, I once again extend my offer to participate in our monthly meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda J. Brennen".

Linda J. Brennen, PP, AICP
President

cc: Ms. Laurie Sobel, Open Space, Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair

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