

## RESOLUTION # 1

### NEW JERSEY ONE HEALTH PROGRAM

1           **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, serving as the lead agency  
2 in New Jersey Emergency Support Function 11 (NJESF11) within the state's Emergency  
3 Response Plan, works to plan for, and respond to, statewide or multi-county natural or man-  
4 made disasters and emergencies in the state; and

5           **WHEREAS**, operations coordinated by NJESF11 include providing co-located animal  
6 shelters where temporary county or state shelters are established for humans who must  
7 evacuate, so that they do not either leave their pets behind or refuse to evacuate if they  
8 cannot take their pets with them; and

9           **WHEREAS**, NJESF11 also plans for and provides coordination for moving at-risk  
10 livestock from farms to county fairgrounds or other safe locations in natural or man-made  
11 disasters, and is charged with coordinating movement of necessary foods from the state's  
12 two USDA warehouses to feed humans at temporary shelters; and

13           **WHEREAS**, an important part of NJESF11 is for NJDA's Division of Animal Health to  
14 plan for the prevention and response to outbreaks of contagious and possibly zoonotic  
15 diseases (those able to transfer from animals to humans) in livestock, domestic companion  
16 animals (i.e. household pets), and wild animals; and

17           **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic shone a light on the potential harm that can  
18 come from zoonotic diseases (those which can transfer from animals to humans) and on the  
19 relationship between human health, animal health, and environmental health; and

20           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has become the first state in the nation to create a task  
21 force, the New Jersey One Health Task Force, to study, prepare for, and respond to  
22 instances where health concerns cross the barriers of human, animal and environmental  
23 health; and

24           **WHEREAS**, in recognition of NJDA's lead role in NJESF11, the expertise in animal  
25 diseases, both zoonotic and non-zoonotic, concentrated in the Division of Animal Health, and

26 the understanding of the ways in which diseases can cross the barriers between the health  
27 categories, the Legislature and Governor placed the New Jersey One Health program in the  
28 NJDA's Division of Animal Health; and

29 **WHEREAS**, coordination of the various agencies and other entities involved in the  
30 One Health program, its unique status as the first effort of its kind in the nation, and the need  
31 to be innovative and groundbreaking in its approaches, are important and time-consuming  
32 additional duties for the Division.

33 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 107<sup>th</sup> State  
34 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, N.J., on February 9-10, 2022, do hereby  
35 support the New Jersey One Health program being an integral part of how the Department  
36 and Division participate in emergency planning and response in the state.

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge the Legislature and Governor to  
38 consider the additional expense and workload to the Department and Division in taking on  
39 this new task, and to bear those costs in mind when establishing funding for the program in  
40 the Department's annual budget.