

RESOLUTION # 15

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

1 **WHEREAS**, industrial hemp (*cannabis sativa*) was a major industrial crop grown in
2 America since the Colonial period, and was used for textiles, paper and rope, and continues
3 to this day to be used in fiberboard, construction materials, protein for both humans and
4 livestock, lubricating oils and energy-producing biomass; and

5 **WHEREAS**, there exists significant interest among New Jersey farmers in growing
6 hemp as an alternative crop, as markets for products made from it continue to grow; and

7 **WHEREAS**, both industrial hemp and marijuana are classified as Schedule 1
8 Substances under the Controlled Substances Act, and thus their cultivation and possession
9 are illegal under federal law; and

10 **WHEREAS**, since the passage of the most recent federal Farm Bill in 2014, 33
11 states have adopted industrial hemp laws, with varying degrees of research, pilot programs
12 and commercial production programs, with only three of them (Minnesota, Pennsylvania and
13 Kentucky) prohibiting commercial production until the federal government legalizes
14 production, sale and distribution; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in states that have legalized industrial hemp, the federal Drug
16 Enforcement Administration requires Class 1 registrations and permits for the importation of
17 seeds and has no legal issues with fiber and grain production, limiting their primary concern
18 to the extraction of cannabinoid oils, which concentrates the THC content of products for
19 non-medical uses; and

20 **WHEREAS**, there is considerable variability in the THC content of different varieties
21 of hemp plants, and it is dependent upon genetics, environment, seed set, flower maturity
22 and harvest time, and industrial hemp must be of a THC content at or below 0.3 percent; and

23 **WHEREAS**, horticultural expertise is required to ensure that hemp production stays
24 within legal bounds and that the seeds being imported into the state to grow it fall within
25 those legal bounds.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 103rd State
27 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 7-8, 2018, do
28 hereby urge the Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign legislation that would provide
29 opportunities for New Jersey farmers to research, produce, process and market industrial
30 hemp.

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge that legislation to grant the authority and
32 necessary resources to the Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry to perform
33 inspections of growing facilities, the testing of seeds and other relevant laboratory tests for
34 mycotoxins, since the Division has been performing this duty under the State's medical
35 marijuana program.