

## RESOLUTION # 2

### NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES

1           **WHEREAS**, destructive insect pests are among the most harmful challenges faced  
2 by farmers, homeowners and government agencies when trying to protect plant life; and

3           **WHEREAS**, much work has been undertaken over the past five decades to ensure  
4 that pesticides marketed for general use carry the least unintended harm to humans,  
5 animals, and beneficial and non-target insects; and

6           **WHEREAS**, pesticides in the neonicotinoid group play a major role in most  
7 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans, which are designed to limit the overuse of  
8 pesticides by employing a combination of chemical and natural methods to fight pests; and

9           **WHEREAS**, included in the neonicotinoid group is the pesticide imidacloprid, which  
10 was first registered for use in the United States in 1992 and has a wide range of target pests  
11 and sites, and is effective in protecting vegetables, fruits, potatoes, cereals and turf; and

12           **WHEREAS**, imidacloprid is also recommended for eliminating and controlling spotted  
13 lanternfly (SLF), a destructive, invasive pest that can cause severe damage to a number of  
14 agricultural crops and which is currently the subject of protective quarantines in three New  
15 Jersey counties that border Pennsylvania, a state where the SLF was first discovered in the  
16 United States and where it has become established or detected in at least a dozen counties;  
17 and

18           **WHEREAS**, a number of insecticide products in the “neonicotinoid” group are  
19 classified as being for general use and have been registered under the EPA’s Conventional  
20 Reduced Risk Program due to their favorable toxicological profiles, and they play an  
21 important role in controlling a variety of insects in both agricultural and veterinary  
22 applications; and

23           **WHEREAS**, as a group, neonicotinoids are effective against sucking insects such as  
24 aphids, leaf hoppers, whitefly and thrips, as well as chewing insects such as termites, and

25 larvae of beetles (wireworms and grubs) and some Lepidopteran pests, particularly  
26 cutworms; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and USDA effectively used  
28 imidacloprid to protect trees from attack by the Asian longhorned beetle during the  
29 eradication of that insect in two separate infestations in New Jersey; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the formulations of the neonicotinoids, clothianidin (GrubEx®),  
31 (Arena®), imidacloprid (Merit®), and thiamethoxam (Meridian™); are widely used by  
32 homeowners and golf course managers to protect turfgrass from Japanese beetle grub  
33 damage; and

34 **WHEREAS**, another insecticide included in the neonicotinoid group is dinotefuran,  
35 which is effective on a broad spectrum of insects infesting vegetable, fruit and fiber crops,  
36 and which was granted Organophosphorous Alternative and Reduced Risk Status by the  
37 EPA; and

38 **WHEREAS**, the “Scorpion® and Venom®” formulations of dinotefuran are relied  
39 upon by New Jersey’s peach and apple growers to protect their crops against the invasive  
40 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug; and

41 **WHEREAS**, imidacloprid is widely used against a number of veterinary parasites  
42 such as fleas, flies and lice on domestic dogs, cats and livestock; and

43 **WHEREAS**, while neonicotinoids are a factor in the debate over the cause of Colony  
44 Collapse Disorder (CCD) among honeybees, no single, identifiable cause of CCD has been  
45 determined by widespread research into that phenomenon; and

46 **WHEREAS**, neonicotinoid insecticides already come in containers with label  
47 instructions that address their potential impacts to honeybee colonies; and

48 **WHEREAS**, the loss of neonicotinoid pesticides as a tool in a producer’s pest-  
49 fighting arsenal would likely lead to increased use of other broad-spectrum insecticides that  
50 may not carry the Reduced Risk Status by the EPA; and

51           **WHEREAS**, action to provide education to producers about the proper use of  
52           neonicotinoid insecticides would have more beneficial impacts; and

53           **WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced to direct the Department of  
54           Environmental Protection to classify neonicotinoids as “restricted use” pesticides in New  
55           Jersey, limiting their application to certified and licensed pesticide applicators, but not to  
56           outrightly prohibit the use or sale of neonicotinoid pesticides in the state.

57           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 104<sup>th</sup> State  
58           Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 6-7, 2019, do  
59           hereby urge the Department to support the continued availability of neonicotinoid pesticides  
60           for the agricultural and veterinary applications they have been used for to date.

61           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we oppose any legislation to ban the use of  
62           neonicotinoids, as the scientific evidence does not support that the drawbacks of using  
63           neonicotinoids outweigh the substantial benefits of neonicotinoids, and since the EPA has  
64           granted them a “Reduced Risk” designation.

65           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage an educational program on the  
66           proper use of neonicotinoid insecticides be undertaken as an alternative to legislation  
67           banning their use, emphasizing the precautions to be taken when using them.