

## RESOLUTION # 27

### NEONICOTINOID, CHLORPYRIFOS, AND PARAQUAT 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**, one of the pesticides included in the neonicotinoid group is imidacloprid  
10 which was first registered for use in the United States in 1992 and has a wide range of target  
11 pests and sites, and is effective in protecting products including but not limited to,  
12 vegetables, fruits, potatoes, cereals, and turf and other horticultural and forestry products;  
13 and

14           **WHEREAS**, another neonicotinoid, dinotefuran, is an essential tool for eliminating  
15 and controlling spotted lanternfly (SLF), a destructive, invasive pest that can cause severe  
16 damage to a number of agricultural crops and which is currently the subject of protective  
17 quarantines in several New Jersey counties, especially those near Pennsylvania, the state  
18 where the SLF was first discovered in the United States and where it has become  
19 established or detected in at least a dozen counties; and

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

25           **WHEREAS**, as a group, neonicotinoids are effective against sucking insects such as  
26 aphids, leaf hoppers, whitefly and thrips, as well as chewing insects such as termites, and  
27 larvae of beetles (wireworms and grubs) and some Lepidopteran pests, particularly  
28 cutworms; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

49           **WHEREAS**, the loss of neonicotinoid pesticides as an effective tool in a producer’s  
50 or regulatory control agencies’ pest-fighting arsenal would likely lead to increased use of

51 other broad-spectrum insecticides that may not carry the Reduced Risk Status by the EPA or  
52 the ability to effectively control exotic or domestic agricultural pests; and

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

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

59 **WHEREAS**, separate legislation has been introduced to also ban the use of  
60 chlorpyrifos insecticides in the state, further limiting the options New Jersey farmers have  
61 available to them to combat the ravages of pests; and

62 **WHEREAS**, with each state-level ban or restriction on insecticides that is not  
63 mirrored in surrounding states, New Jersey farmers are placed at an even further competitive  
64 disadvantage to those farmers who do not have to abide by such bans; and

65 **WHEREAS**, Paraquat (Gramoxone) is an economically significant and important  
66 herbicide used extensively in New Jersey on a wide variety of fruit, vegetable,  
67 ornamental and grain crops; and

68 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey farmers do not have alternative products that can  
69 accomplish the same results as Paraquat to replace it; and

70 **WHEREAS**, under the EPA’s Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation  
71 Decision and amended paraquat dichloride (Paraquat) product labels, certified  
72 applicators must successfully complete an EPA-approved training program before  
73 mixing, loading and/or applying Paraquat; and

74 **WHEREAS**, only certified applicators with the new specialized training may mix  
75 and apply Paraquat, while all others are prohibited from mixing, handling and applying  
76 Paraquat; and

77           **WHEREAS**, current training and testing for certified applicators is offered only in  
78 English, while a large segment of New Jersey farm workers use Spanish as their primary  
79 language.

80           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 106<sup>th</sup> State  
81 Agricultural Convention, assembled through a virtual platform hosted in Trenton, New  
82 Jersey, in accordance with COVID-19 pandemic recommendations, on February 17, 2021,  
83 do hereby urge the Department to support the continued availability of neonicotinoid,  
84 chlorpyrifos, and gramoxone pesticides for the agricultural and veterinary applications they  
85 have been used for to date.

86           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we oppose any legislation to ban the use of  
87 neonicotinoids, chlorpyrifos, and gramoxone insecticides, as the scientific evidence does not  
88 support that the drawbacks of using them outweigh the substantial benefits when applied in  
89 accordance with the label instructions.

90           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage an educational program on the  
91 proper use of these insecticides be undertaken as an alternative to legislation banning their  
92 use, emphasizing the precautions to be taken when using them, with experts in the field  
93 creating the educational materials, and we urge the New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
94 to closely monitor the effects of the use of insecticides on local pollinators.