

## RESOLUTION # 22

### PRESERVING PESTICIDE AVAILABILITY FOR AGRICULTURE

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

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

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

41           **WHEREAS**, the “Scorpion® and Venom®” formulations of dinotefuran are relied  
42 upon by New Jersey’s peach and apple growers to protect their crops against the invasive  
43 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug; 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**, legislation that has taken effect nationwide has already cost farmers’ the  
60 ability to use chlorpyrifos insecticides, further limiting the options New Jersey farmers have  
61 available to them to combat the ravages of pests; and

62 **WHEREAS**, ~~g~~Gramoxone (Paraquat) is an economically significant and  
63 important herbicide used extensively in New Jersey on a wide variety of fruit, vegetable,  
64 ornamental and grain crops; and

65 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey farmers do not have alternative products that can  
66 accomplish the same results as ~~G~~gramoxone to replace it; and

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

71 **WHEREAS**, only certified applicators with the new specialized training may mix  
72 and apply ~~G~~gramoxone, while all others are prohibited from mixing, handling and  
73 applying it; and

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

77           **WHEREAS**, on Dec. 1, 2021, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, introduced a  
78 proposed FIFRA update bill, titled the “Protect America’s Children from Toxic Pesticide Act”  
79 which would give states and local governments more power over chemical pesticide use and  
80 would ban many individual chemistries vital to agriculture.

81           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 107<sup>th</sup> State  
82 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City on February 9-10, 2022, do hereby urge  
83 the Department to support the continued availability of neonicotinoid and gramoxone  
84 pesticides for the agricultural, professional landscape, and veterinary applications they have  
85 been used for to date.

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

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.

95           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we do hereby urge the New Jersey  
96 Congressional Delegation to oppose any bill pending in the U.S. House of Representatives  
97 or U.S. Senate that would give local governments more power over chemical use and would  
98 ban individual chemistries, especially those vital to a robust agriculture needed to feed an  
99 ever-growing world population.

100           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the appropriate federal agencies allow  
101 the sale of rodenticides over the counter instead of only through professional exterminators.