

## RESOLUTION # 33

### INVASIVE PESTS AND THE PHILLIP ALAMPI BENEFICIAL INSECT LABORATORY

1           **WHEREAS**, the increasingly globalized nature of the world's economy means more  
2 goods are imported to, and exported from, the United States, with many of them arriving via  
3 ship or air transport; and

4           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is both home to, and is surrounded by states that have,  
5 numerous large commercial ports; and

6           **WHEREAS**, requirements for shipping containers and packaging vary throughout the  
7 world, and can result in insects and diseases not native to the United States arriving in the  
8 containers and packaging of goods, often concealed in packing materials; and

9           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey must be prepared to detect, control, and eradicate foreign  
10 invasive pests that could cause severe damage to the state's agricultural crops, livestock,  
11 pets and wooded areas; and

12           **WHEREAS**, 2017-18 saw the first-ever arrivals in New Jersey of the exotic  
13 Longhorned Tick and the Spotted Lanternfly, both invasive pests; and

14           **WHEREAS**, the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is the subject of quarantines in multiple  
15 New Jersey counties, as the Department aims to combat its spread; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the SLF in particular can cause significant damage to a number of high-  
17 value agricultural crops, and is the subject of a current cooperative effort between the  
18 Department and the USDA to prevent the SLF's spread in the state, with the ultimate goal of  
19 eradicating it; and

20           **WHEREAS**, the cooperative effort with USDA has resulted in \$1.3 million in federal  
21 funding coming to New Jersey to help stop the SLF, and the Department's Division of Plant  
22 Industry estimates that it needs at least double that amount in federal funding to successfully  
23 battle the SLF; and

24           **WHEREAS**, the Division needs additional tools that would help enact preventive-  
25 treatment agreements outside of quarantine zones and to expedite judicial orders for those

26 property owners within quarantine zones who refuse to allow treatments on their properties;  
27 and

28 **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture has instituted quarantines to  
29 assist in detecting and eradicating the SLF in multiple counties, especially those bordering  
30 Pennsylvania, which has the nation’s largest documented population of Spotted Lanternflies,  
31 and which has instituted quarantines in 13 counties to try to control the spread of the SLF;  
32 and

33 **WHEREAS**, governments at all levels are aware of the concerns of some members  
34 of the public regarding chemical pesticides, and New Jersey in particular is sensitive to the  
35 desire of residents to attack pests through biological methods whenever the use of chemicals  
36 can be avoided; and

37 **WHEREAS**, in order to facilitate biological pest-control methods, New Jersey in 1985  
38 established the Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory (PABIL) within its Division of Plant  
39 Industry to breed effective predator insects and other life forms that attack and kill invasive  
40 pests; and

41 **WHEREAS**, methods created at PABIL that have been successful in attacking  
42 invasive pests include predatory wasps that kill Mexican bean beetle, the Derodontidae  
43 beetle that feeds on hemlock woolly adelgid, and fungi released into the environment that kill  
44 gypsy moth caterpillars by invading their digestive tracts and stopping them from eating; and

45 **WHEREAS**, until mid-2021, significant upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air  
46 conditioning systems were needed and had not been addressed due to lack of funding; and

47 **WHEREAS**, this year, \$3.5 million in funding was approved by the Legislature and  
48 the repairs needed at PABIL are moving forward; and

49 **WHEREAS**, pending bills in the New Jersey Legislature would create an “Invasive  
50 Species Task Force” to combat the entry and spread of new invasive species into the state;  
51 and

52           **WHEREAS**, the Task Force, under the pending legislation, would be charged in part  
53 to "prepare a comprehensive invasive species management plan for the State," which would  
54 include identifying which species it will consider to be invasive; and

55           **WHEREAS**, that process, under previous task forces and councils charged with  
56 creating such a plan, has been challenging because certain non-native species grown by  
57 New Jersey nursery producers were listed, although they had not proven previously to be a  
58 threat for invasive growth; and

59           **WHEREAS**, the pending Senate legislation to create the Task Force names the  
60 Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) as the chair of the  
61 Task Force, the Assembly version also adds the Secretary of Agriculture as a member and  
62 co-chair.

63           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 107<sup>th</sup> State  
64 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, N.J., on February 9-10, 2022, do hereby  
65 urge PABIL and the Division of Plant Industry to continue working to develop biological  
66 controls of both invasive and native pests that do harm to agricultural crops, wooded lands  
67 and ecosystems.

68           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we gratefully acknowledge the provision of state  
69 funding to address the repairs needed for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning repairs  
70 at PABIL in order to allow the facility to operate optimally.

71           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that should the legislation to create the Invasive  
72 Species Task Force advance, we strongly urge that the Senate version of the bill be  
73 amended to reflect the provisions in the Assembly version that names the Secretary of  
74 Agriculture as the co-chairman of the Task Force.