

RESOLUTION # 26

FARM EQUIPMENT AND HIGHWAY SAFETY

1 **WHEREAS**, farmers from throughout the state have reported an increase in
2 accidents or “close calls” on the roads from drivers trying to pass around their farm
3 equipment; and

4 **WHEREAS**, there appears to be a lack of understanding of the motor vehicle
5 regulations regarding interactions among motorists and those driving farm equipment on the
6 roads, and even among those teaching people how to drive, as some of the recent close
7 calls have involved cars marked as driver-education vehicles; and

8 **WHEREAS**, accidents involving large farm vehicles can have significant
9 consequences for both farmers and the other drivers, including serious injury or death, and
10 protracted, expensive civil court cases resulting from accidents; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture is in a unique position to
12 better educate the motoring public about the need for patience when drivers find themselves
13 behind slower-moving farm vehicles.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 108th State
15 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9, 2023, do
16 hereby direct the Department to increase messaging about highway safety around farm
17 equipment on the road through all messaging channels, including social media such as
18 Facebook, the Department website, etc., and including a video produced by the Department
19 about road safety around farm equipment that could be played at Motor Vehicle Commission
20 offices statewide.

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to endeavor to have
22 these messages inserted into the Driver’s Education programs in schools throughout the
23 state, including the use of the video mentioned above and the creation of a pamphlet or other
24 materials on the issue.

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that funds should be identified that could facilitate the
26 placement of more signage on roads where farm equipment is likely to travel to alert
27 motorists to the need to slow down and, where possible, avoid trying to pass farm equipment
28 due to the danger of oncoming traffic that the motorist may not see around the farm
29 equipment, including a discussion on whether legislation could be introduced to increase the
30 fines for violating highway laws regarding farm equipment.