

RESOLUTION # 39

PLASTIC BAG BAN

1 **WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has passed a law regarding plastic bags and
2 has been implementing a ban on single-use plastic bags for retailers since May 2022; and

3 **WHEREAS**, farmers markets, farm stands, and pick-your-own operations are
4 impacted by the ban and there is still a lack of education about the use of food-safety bags,
5 paper bags, and the potential for biodegradable alternatives; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there will be increased enforcement of the plastic-bag ban and the
7 potential for fines and penalties for violating the ban in the upcoming season.

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 108th State
9 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9, 2023, do
10 hereby request that the Department of Agriculture and State Board of Agriculture convene an
11 ad hoc working group of impacted farmers, from farm stand, direct marketing, pick-your-own
12 operations and farmers market operators, Rutgers NJAES, and New Jersey Farm Bureau to
13 investigate the expected impacts of the ban moving forward, in particular to seek clarification
14 of the ban, consider the cost and feasibility of practical alternatives, and to make
15 recommendations for measures needed to support these farm operations regarding plastic
16 bags.