

RESOLUTION # 8

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 all New Jersey counties; and

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

23 **WHEREAS**, as a group, neonicotinoids are effective against sucking insects such as
24 aphids, leaf hoppers, whitefly and thrips, as well as chewing insects such as termites, and

25 larvae of beetles (wireworms and grubs) and some Lepidopteran pests, particularly
26 cutworms; and

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

30 **WHEREAS**, imidacloprid is widely used against a number of veterinary parasites
31 such as fleas, flies and lice on domestic dogs, cats and livestock; 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**, while neonicotinoids are a factor in the debate over the cause of Colony
43 Collapse Disorder (CCD) among honeybees, no single, identifiable cause of CCD has been
44 determined by widespread research into that phenomenon; and

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

47 **WHEREAS**, the loss of neonicotinoid pesticides as an effective tool in a producer’s
48 or regulatory control agencies’ pest-fighting arsenal would likely lead to increased use of
49 other broad-spectrum insecticides that may not carry the Reduced Risk Status by the EPA or
50 the ability to effectively control exotic or domestic agricultural pests; and

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

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

57 **WHEREAS**, legislation that has taken effect nationwide has already cost farmers’ the
58 ability to use chlorpyrifos insecticides, further limiting the options New Jersey farmers have
59 available to them to combat the ravages of pests; and

60 **WHEREAS**, gramoxone (Paraquat) is an economically significant and important
61 herbicide used extensively in New Jersey on a wide variety of fruit, vegetable,
62 ornamental and grain crops; and

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

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

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

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

75 **WHEREAS**, on December 1, 2021, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, D-New Jersey,
76 introduced a proposed FIFRA update bill, titled the “Protect America’s Children from Toxic

77 Pesticide Act” which would give states and local governments more power over chemical
78 pesticide use and would ban many individual chemistries vital to agriculture.

79 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 108th State
80 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9, 2023, do
81 hereby urge the Department to support the continued availability of neonicotinoid and
82 gramoxone pesticides for the agricultural, professional landscape, and veterinary
83 applications they have been used for to date.

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

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

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

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