**RESOLUTION # 8**

**AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**WHEREAS**, weather and climate play a significant role in agriculture, largely dictating which crops can be grown successfully in certain areas of the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers can take limited measures to counteract the immediate impacts of short-term weather (e.g. using warming devices for unexpected overnight frosts, irrigating to minimize the impact of droughts) and can take more long-range steps to help reduce greenhouses gases, which are believed to contribute to long-range climate change, by reducing their carbon footprint (e.g. “no-till” farming, reducing “food miles” by selling more of what a farm produces closer to home, creating and using alternative energy to power the farm); and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is a national leader in dozens of high-value fruit and vegetable crops for the fresh market, and weather and climate can impact the appearances of those crops and the long-term viability of continuing to grow them in this state and region; and

**WHEREAS**, many New Jersey farmers are active in conservation practices that can counteract agriculture’s contribution to greenhouse gases and help to stabilize the on-farm and nearby ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, there will be approximately 10 billion people on the planet by 2050, meaning farms must become not only more eco-friendly, but simultaneously more resilient, efficient, and productive at the highest possible levels, just to feed the world’s population.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 109th State Agricultural Convention, gathered in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 7-8, 2024, do hereby urge all New Jersey agricultural producers to implement feasible practices to reduce their farms’ contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change as well as protect their farms from the impacts of climate change to the greatest extent practicable.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department to provide input and seek financial support, where appropriate, to the development of state-level policies that address climate change (such as in the State Energy Master Plan, State Development and Redevelopment Plan, NJPACT regulations, soil and water-conservation plans, etc.) in order that those policies will strike the proper balance between protecting our environment and fulfilling the needs to produce food and fiber for an expanding population in an economically sustainable manner.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the SADC to expand its stewardship programs to include financial and technical support for climate-change/smart/precision agriculture and carbon-sequestration projects.