

RESOLUTION # 40
RENEWABLE ENERGY

1 **WHEREAS**, energy costs place a financial burdens on all New Jersey
2 agricultural sectors, making traditional fossil fuels less attractive for on-farm use; and

3 **WHEREAS**, bio-gas facilities have the potential to remove large amounts of food
4 waste and other refuse from the state’s overall waste inventory, as well as manure, in
5 the production of bio-gas, lessening the state’s reliance on landfills and thereby
6 enhancing the environment and reducing municipal waste disposal costs; and

7 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey agricultural operators have embraced becoming part of
8 the biofuels and alternative-energy production market, including but not limited to the
9 growing of grasses and other cellulosic materials for use in woodstoves or other heat
10 and power devices; and the growing of corn, soybeans and other crops to be used as
11 feedstocks for biofuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the federal government determines the target levels of renewable
13 fuels to be used through the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), especially as it relates
14 to the amount of ethanol mandated to be used nationally; and

15 **WHEREAS**, although New Jersey is not currently a leading state in the
16 production of ethanol or biodiesel, the increased nationwide demand for crops to make
17 these renewable fuels helps New Jersey corn and soybean farmers realize more
18 favorable prices for their crops; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the efforts of agricultural operators to both use and produce
20 alternative energy are consistent with the goals of the updated State Energy Master Plan
21 and with elements of the “Energy as Industry” positions of the Administration; and

22 **WHEREAS**, we strongly support all farmers having the ability to utilize solar,
23 wind and other renewable energy to meet the energy needs of their agricultural
24 operations as cost-effectively as possible, whether their farms are preserved or not; and

25 **WHEREAS**, local production of biofuels has the potential to improve air quality by
26 lessening the amount of fossil fuels being used, as well as providing New Jersey farmers
27 with an enhanced market for their crops and, in some cases, their waste streams; and

28 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s fiscal position requires innovative ways of creating an
29 inviting business climate for potential biofuels producers and bioenergy generators that
30 do not rely primarily on financial incentives; and

31 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey was, until 2015, one of only two states that had not
32 adopted a definition of “pure biodiesel” that included a reference to the American Society
33 for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard D6751, and that ended with the signing of
34 legislation in August 2015 adopting that definition; and

35 **WHEREAS**, a bill pending in the New Jersey Senate would establish a graduated
36 mandate, starting at 3 percent and rising to 5 percent over time, for the inclusion of
37 biodiesel in home heating oil.

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 101st
39 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 10-
40 11, 2016, support the continued development of renewable energy sources in New
41 Jersey and support the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s comprehensive “green
42 energy” strategy as both producers and consumers.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the efforts of the Department with
44 USDA’s Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS),
45 Rutgers University, New Jersey Farm Bureau and/or any other agencies, to increase the
46 participation of farmers in the growing of cellulosic crops that can be used in a variety of
47 alternative-energy processes.

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the continuing operation of an
49 electricity-generating anaerobic digester at the Landis Sewerage Authority in Vineland to
50 be fueled in part by manure from New Jersey dairy or other livestock operations and
51 waste from food processors, as it addresses the dual needs of creating alternative
52 energy while removing manure and other organic waste from the waste inventory.

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the continuation of the federal
54 Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) at its current levels as a means of guiding the nation
55 to greater use of renewable fuels.

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge the Legislature to pass, and
57 the Governor to sign, legislation, currently pending in the Senate Environment and
58 Energy Committee, that would put into effect a graduated 3 percent/5 percent biodiesel
59 mandate, which would require that all space-heating diesel fuel sold in the state would
60 include 3 percent biodiesel initially, and increase that amount to 5 percent over time.

61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we gratefully acknowledge the New Jersey
62 Legislature passing, and the Governor signing, legislation that contained a definition of
63 “pure biodiesel,” which is consistent with the definition adopted by 48 other states and
64 which is tied to the requirements of ASTM D6751, which specifies various test methods
65 to be used in the determination of certain properties for biodiesel blends, including flash
66 point and kinematic viscosity.

67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we direct the Department to continue its
68 efforts to support the establishment of biofuel production facilities of all types in New
69 Jersey, as such development can lead to an enhanced close-in market for many of the
70 crops grown in New Jersey when they are used as biofuel feedstocks.

71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the rules developed by the State
72 Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) for incorporating solar power into
73 preserved farm operations, and regarding wind power on preserved farms, and urge the

74 Department and SADC to promptly finalize the rules regarding biomass power-
75 generation facilities on both preserved and non-preserved farms.