

## RESOLUTION # 2

### NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES

1           **WHEREAS**, destructive insect pests are among the most harmful challenges  
2           faced by farmers, homeowners and government agencies when trying to protect plant  
3           life; and

4           **WHEREAS**, much work has been undertaken over the past five decades to  
5           ensure that pesticides marketed for general use carry the least unintended harm to  
6           humans, animals, and beneficial and non-target insects; and

7           **WHEREAS**, pesticides in the neonicotinoid group play a major role in most  
8           Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans, which are designed to limit the overuse of  
9           pesticides by employing a combination of chemical and natural methods to fight pests;  
10          and

11          **WHEREAS**, included in the neonicotinoid group is the pesticide imidacloprid,  
12          which was first registered for use in the United States in 1992 and has a wide range of  
13          target pests and sites, and is effective in protecting vegetables, fruits, potatoes, cereals  
14          and turf; and

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

20          **WHEREAS**, as a group, neonicotinoids are effective against sucking insects  
21          such as aphids, leaf hoppers, whitefly and thrips, as well as chewing insects such as  
22          termites, and larvae of beetles (wireworms and grubs) and some Lepidopteran pests,  
23          particularly cutworms; and

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

27           **WHEREAS**, the formulations of the neonicotinoids, clothianidin (GrubEx®),  
28           (Arena®), imidacloprid (Merit®), and thiamethoxam (Meridian™); are widely used by  
29           homeowners and golf course managers to protect turfgrass from Japanese beetle grub  
30           damage; and

31           **WHEREAS**, another insecticide included in the neonicotinoid group is  
32           dinotefuran, which is effective on a broad spectrum of insects infesting vegetable, fruit  
33           and fiber crops, and which was granted Organophosphorous Alternative and Reduced  
34           Risk Status by the EPA; and

35           **WHEREAS**, the “Scorpion® and Venom®” formulations of dinotefuran are relied  
36           upon by New Jersey’s peach and apple growers to protect their crops against the  
37           invasive Brown Marmorated Stink Bug; and

38           **WHEREAS**, imidacloprid is widely used against a number of veterinary parasites  
39           such as fleas, flies and lice on domestic dogs, cats and livestock; and

40           **WHEREAS**, while neonicotinoids are a factor in the debate over the cause of  
41           Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) among honeybees, no single, identifiable cause of  
42           CCD has been determined by widespread research into that phenomenon; and

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

45           **WHEREAS**, the loss of neonicotinoid pesticides as a tool in a producer’s pest-  
46           fighting arsenal would likely lead to increased use of other broad-spectrum insecticides  
47           that may not carry the Reduced Risk Status by the EPA; and

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

50           **WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced to prohibit the use or sale of  
51           neonicotinoid pesticides in New Jersey.

52           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 102<sup>nd</sup>  
53           State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 8-9,  
54           2017, do hereby urge the Department to support the continued availability of  
55           neonicotinoid pesticides for the agricultural and veterinary applications they have been  
56           used for to date.

57           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we oppose legislation proposed in the State  
58           Legislature to ban the use of neonicotinoids, as the scientific evidence does not support  
59           that the drawbacks of using neonicotinoids outweigh the substantial benefits of  
60           neonicotinoids, and since the EPA has granted them a “Reduced Risk” designation.

61           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage an educational program on  
62           the proper use of neonicotinoid insecticides be undertaken as an alternative to  
63           legislation banning their use.