

RESOLUTION # 10

LOW-HANGING CABLES

1 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey farmers and their employees often operate large,
2 mobile equipment and trucks on the farm and on the road; and

3 **WHEREAS**, operators of farm equipment and trucks take very seriously their role
4 in preventing accidents, as any injuries from such accidents can have severe negative
5 impacts to farm operations; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in recent months, at least four accidents have occurred in New
7 Jersey involving farm harvesting equipment coming into contact with low-hanging utility
8 cables along roads; and

9 **WHEREAS**, at least one of these incidents involved harvesting equipment
10 inadvertently pulling down utility poles and lines that provided power to approximately 30
11 homes; and

12 **WHEREAS**, there were no major injuries in the four incidents from 2014 the
13 State Board of Agriculture has been made aware of, yet incidents like this can have
14 tragic consequences and in fact resulted in the deaths of [two farmers in the process of](#)
15 [harvesting grain](#) in Elmer, New Jersey, several years ago; and

16 **WHEREAS**, this is an issue that affects not only the agricultural community, but
17 all truckers, as tractor trailers can likewise become entangled in low-hanging cables.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 100th
19 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 4-5,
20 2015, do hereby request that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) require
21 all utility providers whose cables run alongside or across New Jersey roads to maintain
22 their cables at appropriate heights, depending upon current applicable standards in New
23 Jersey, as directed by NJAC 16:25-5.3(a) which defers to the National Electric Safety

24 Code Rule 232, which calls for minimums of 15.5 feet for communication wires, 16 feet
25 or higher for electric wires and to maintain them, where no standards apply, at an
26 adequate height so as to avoid accidents with trucks or farm equipment.

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we request the Department to work with the
28 NJBPU to provide a means of reporting low wires and to follow up on the raising of these
29 low wires in a reasonable period of time.

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NJBPU establish an inspection program
31 to ensure utility line height compliance by utilities