

## RESOLUTION # 8

### PESTICIDES

1           **WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Act (CWA) controls water pollution by regulating  
2 point sources that discharge pollutants in and around waters of the United States  
3 through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program;  
4 and

5           **WHEREAS**, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has never  
6 required NPDES permits for the application of pesticides for agricultural crop protection,  
7 mosquito control, invasive aquatic weed control, forest canopy insect control, or other  
8 registered uses of pesticides when properly applied following FIFRA-approved label  
9 directions; and

10           **WHEREAS**, a January 2009 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit decision,  
11 in the matter of *National Cotton Council of America et al. v. United States Environmental*  
12 *Protection Agency*, vacated an EPA Rule which exempted certain pesticide applications  
13 made in, over, or near “waters of the United States” in accordance with the Federal  
14 Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) from the federal Clean Water Act’s  
15 permitting requirements; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the Court granted EPA a two-year stay of its decision, during which  
17 time EPA was to develop a general permit for four aquatic pesticide uses in the states  
18 and territories without delegated CWA authority, and states which have assumed CWA  
19 authority may use this permit as a model in developing general permits for their states;  
20 and

21           **WHEREAS**, this change requires NJPDES permits for pesticide applications  
22 made to or near the “Waters of the State,” meaning the ocean and its estuaries, all  
23 springs, streams and bodies of surface or ground water and wetlands, whether natural or

24 artificial, within the boundaries of the State of New Jersey or subject to its jurisdiction,  
25 and this would place additional burdens on applicators, impact crops in fields, pastures  
26 and forestlands adjacent to farm ponds or wetlands, ditches, streams or rivers, and  
27 interfere with the timely application of pesticides to control pests and diseases, and to  
28 control mosquitoes which may vector diseases of humans or horses and other livestock.

29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 100<sup>th</sup>  
30 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 4-5,  
31 2015, do hereby urge the New Jersey Congressional Delegation to support an effort to  
32 amend the Clean Water Act to make it clear that pesticides applied in accordance with  
33 their labels are not considered pollutants under the Act.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the New Jersey Congressional  
35 Delegation to support efforts in Washington to exempt agricultural operations and efforts  
36 to control or eradicate invasive species and mosquitoes from NPDES permitting  
37 requirements for applications of pesticides when applied in accordance with their label.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, failing such action, we urge the New Jersey  
39 Congressional Delegation to support efforts to ensure that the resources required to  
40 process these new permits are covered by federal funds and do not strain the already  
41 scarce resources of state regulatory agencies or of New Jersey's hard-working farmers.

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if the need for an NJPDES permit for the  
43 discharge of pesticides in or near waters of the United States is not eliminated by  
44 legislative action, we urge the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to  
45 continue working with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, New Jersey Farm  
46 Bureau, Rutgers University's New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and the  
47 agricultural industry leaders on this issue to adopt NJPDES permits that are no more  
48 stringent than is required by federal law and are as user-friendly as possible for those  
49 applying pesticides in or near waters of the United States.

50                   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge New Jersey's U.S. Senators  
51                   to support any efforts to exempt agricultural operations and efforts to control or eradicate  
52                   invasive species and mosquitoes from NPDES permitting requirements for applications  
53                   of pesticides applied in accordance with their label.