

**RESOLUTION # 13**

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE**

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

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

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

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

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

20          **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 104<sup>th</sup> State  
21       Agricultural Convention, gathered in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 6-7, 2019, do  
22       hereby urge all New Jersey agricultural producers to implement feasible practices to reduce  
23       their farms’ contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

24          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department to provide input, where  
25       appropriate, to the development of state-level policies that address climate change (such as

26       in the State Energy Master Plan, water-conservation plans, land use plans, etc.) in order that  
27       those policies will strike the proper balance between protecting our environment and fulfilling  
28       the needs to produce food and fiber for an expanding population in an economically  
29       sustainable manner.