

## RESOLUTION #

### INVASIVE PESTS AND THE ALAMPI BENEFICIAL INSECT LAB

1           **WHEREAS**, the increasingly globalized nature of the world's economy means more  
2 goods are imported to, and exported from, the United States, with many of them arriving via  
3 ship or air transport; and

4           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is both home to, and is surrounded by, numerous large  
5 commercial ports; and

6           **WHEREAS**, requirements for shipping containers and packaging vary throughout the  
7 world, and can result in insects not native to the United States arriving in the containers and  
8 packaging of goods, often concealed as they burrow into wooden packing materials; and

9           **WHEREAS**, New Jersey must be prepared to detect, control, and eradicate foreign  
10 invasive pests that could cause severe damage to the state's agricultural crops, livestock,  
11 pets and wooded areas; and

12           **WHEREAS**, 2017-18 alone saw the first-ever arrivals in New Jersey of the exotic  
13 Longhorned Tick and the Spotted Lanternfly, both invasive pests; and

14           **WHEREAS**, the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) in particular can cause significant damage to a  
15 number of high-value agricultural crops, and is the subject of a current cooperative effort  
16 between the Department and the USDA to prevent the SLF's spread into the state and to  
17 eradicate it; and

18           **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture has instituted quarantines to  
19 assist in detecting and eradicating the SLF in three counties bordering Pennsylvania, which  
20 has the nation's largest documented population of Spotted Lanternflies, and which has  
21 instituted quarantines in 13 counties to try to control the spread; and

22           **WHEREAS**, governments at all levels are aware of the public's view of chemical  
23 pesticides, and New Jersey in particular, where farming occurs close to where others live, is

24 sensitive to the desire of residents to attack pests through biological methods whenever the  
25 use of chemicals can be avoided; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in order to facilitate biological pest-control methods, New Jersey in 1985  
27 established the Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory (PABIL) within its Division of Plant  
28 Industry to breed effective predator insects and other life forms that attack and kill invasive  
29 pests; and

30 **WHEREAS**, methods created at PABIL that have been successful in attacking invasive  
31 pests include predatory wasps that kill Mexican Bean Beetle, the Derodontidae beetle that  
32 feeds on hemlock woolly adelgid, and fungi released into the environment that kill gypsy  
33 moth caterpillars by invading their digestive tracts and stopping them from eating; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at PABIL is in need of  
35 serious upgrade if the breeding rooms at PABIL are to continue operating efficiently and  
36 effectively, and those repairs will require \$4.5 million in funding; and

37 **WHEREAS**, pending bills in the New Jersey Legislature (S3091 and A4585) would  
38 create an "Invasive Species Task Force" to control the entry and spread of new invasive  
39 species into the state; and

40 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force would, under the existing legislation, be charged with  
41 identifying which plant species it will consider to be invasive; and

42 **WHEREAS**, that process, under previous task forces and councils charged with creating  
43 such a list, has been contentious because certain non-native species grown by New Jersey  
44 nursery producers were listed, although they had not proven previously to be a threat for  
45 invasive growth; and

46 **WHEREAS**, the pending legislation to create the Task Force names the Commissioner of  
47 the Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) as the chair of the Task Force and the  
48 Secretary of Agriculture as a member.

49 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 104<sup>th</sup> State  
50 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 6-7, 2019 do

51 hereby urge PABIL and the Division of Plant Industry to continue working to develop  
52 biological controls of both invasive and native pests that do harm to agricultural crops and  
53 wooded lands.

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Legislature to pass, and the Governor  
55 to sign, legislation that will provide the Department the \$4.5 million needed to fund repairs of  
56 the HVAC system at PABIL in order to keep the facility operating optimally.

57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that should the legislation (S3091 and A4585) to create  
58 the Invasive Species Task Force advance, we strongly urge an amendment that would name  
59 the Secretary of Agriculture as the co-chairman of the Task Force.