**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF New Jersey LEGISLATIVE BILLS S1016/A2070: Bans most outdoor, non-agricultural uses of neonicotinoid pesticides and directs DEP to designate neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides.**

WHEREAS, S1016/A2070 concerns use of neonicotinoids, or “neonics,” which is a class of neurotoxic pesticides that includes imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, dinotefuran, acetamiprid, flonicamid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, and thiacloprid;

WHEREAS, research shows that widespread use of neonics is a leading cause of declines in honey bees as well as wild pollinators and a threat to birds, fish, and entire ecosystems;

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s agricultural economy depends on healthy populations of bees and other pollinators to produce valuable and healthy foods like blueberries, apples, and cherries;

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and other independent research have found that neonics can harm human health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that half of Americans are regularly exposed to neonics;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has detected neonics in waters across the state and found that lawn uses by professional pesticide users are the number one known source of neonic contamination in New Jersey;

WHEREAS, S1016/A2070 would ban the sale and use of neonic products for outdoor, non-agricultural use, including uses on lawns and ornamental plants, and classify neonics as restricted use pesticides;

WHEREAS, the bill directs DEP to, every three years, review the latest scientific information concerning neonicotinoid pesticides, and classify as a restricted use pesticide any neonicotinoid pesticide that the department determines will cause harm to populations of pollinating bees, birds, other pollinating wildlife, or aquatic invertebrates;

WHEREAS, a “restricted use pesticide” is a pesticide that can be purchased and used only by a certified and licensed pesticide applicator, as determined by DEP, or persons working under the direct supervision of a certified and licensed pesticide applicator;

WHEREAS, the bill would not impact use of neonics on “agricultural plants,” which include any plant, or part thereof, grown, maintained, or otherwise produced for commercial purposes, including any plant grown, maintained, or otherwise produced for sale or trade, for research or experimental purposes, or for use in part or their entirety in another location;

WHEREAS, the bill permits DEP, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, to allow neonic use to address “environmental emergencies,” defined to mean an occurrence of any pest which presents a significant risk of harm or injury to the environment, or significant harm, injury, or loss to agricultural crops, including, but not limited to, any exotic or foreign pest which may need preventative quarantine measures to avert or prevent that risk;

WHEREAS, the bill would allow continued use of neonic products for indoor pest control, around building foundations to control structural pests, and in treated wood products; and

WHEREAS, S1016/A2070 addresses a grave threat to pollinators and ecosystems and safeguards the future of our food system by banning the number one source of widespread neonic contamination in New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT \_\_\_[municipality]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

1. Does hereby support S1016/A2070, banning most outdoor, non-agricultural uses of neonics; and
2. Will provide a copy of this resolution to our local New Jersey Senate and Assembly representatives, [insert Assembly and Senate reps].

Dated: [date]

I, [name], [township clerk or relevant official], do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the [municipality] Environmental Commission at a regular meeting held on [date].