

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 158

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 1997

By Assemblyman COHEN

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging support of the United Farm Workers of
2 America strawberry organizing campaign.

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4 **WHEREAS**, Farm workers toiling in strawberry fields are among the most
5 exploited workers in the nation; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Over 20,000 women, men and children working in California
7 strawberry fields typically spend 10 to 12 hours a day picking fruit from
8 ankle-level plants, suffer chronic back pain and injuries, and experience the
9 dangerous affects of pesticide poisoning; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Strawberry workers have not received a pay raise above poverty
11 level wages for ten years; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Most strawberry workers have few or no medical benefits; work
13 in an environment where sexual harassment is common place; and only
14 have available bathrooms in the fields that are filthy; and

15 **WHEREAS**, A few large corporations shoulder most of the responsibility for
16 establishing a rational system for labor relations in the strawberry industry;
17 and eight large corporations exercise great control over approximately 270
18 strawberry growers by providing them with loans, by supplying plants from
19 nurseries, by packaging and marketing the crop, by developing varieties of
20 strawberries, and by setting the prices; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Over 20,000 strawberry workers are tired of these terrible
22 conditions and seek safety, security and a voice on the job; now, therefore,
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24 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
25 *Jersey:*

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27 1. That this House commends the United Farm Workers of America's
28 California strawberry organizing campaign and expresses indignation at the
29 abuses committed against farm workers.

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31 2. A duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
32 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly
33 shall be transmitted to the United Farm Workers of America.

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STATEMENT

This resolution would urge support for the United Farm Workers of America strawberry organizing campaign.

Urges support of United Farm Workers of America strawberry organizing campaign.