

RESOLUTION # 44

WINERIES, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

1 **WHEREAS**, wines from New Jersey's more than 50 wineries are becoming
2 increasingly sophisticated, and that sophistication is showing in their award-winning
3 products; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the state's wine industry has received countless awards locally,
5 nationally and internationally, and New Jersey's approximately \$30 million dollar per year
6 wine industry adds an important diversification to New Jersey's agricultural sector, offering
7 agri-tourism opportunities while providing a value-added product; and

8 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's wine industry ranks in the Top 10 in the nation in
9 production and, although grape production continues to expand in New Jersey, it is not
10 keeping pace with increased wine production; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture administers a promotion and
12 research fund for the wine and grape industry supported by per gallon assessments
13 collected by the New Jersey Wine Industry Advisory Council, and the Council prints
14 promotional materials, conducts publicity programs, funds promotional festivals and conducts
15 varietal and production oriented research with these funds; and

16 **WHEREAS**, small-scale, on-farm breweries also are becoming more popular in New
17 Jersey, and their operations, including the brewing of beer and the operation of pubs
18 connected to the breweries, present opportunities for New Jersey farmers to sell products
19 used both in the production of beer and as items on the menus of the pubs; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law in 2013
21 provisions for small craft breweries and distilleries licenses, provided that no less than 51
22 percent of the raw materials used in the production of those products are grown in the state;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, questions have arisen about whether the disposal of even relatively
25 small amounts of wastewater from micro-breweries and micro-distilleries, necessitating the

26 need for the operator of such a facility to file a Nutrient Management Plan with the state
27 and/or local officials.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 103rd State
29 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 7-8, 2018, do
30 hereby urge the Department to continue taking steps to help the wine and grape industry
31 increase grape production in an effort to increase the local agricultural input of New Jersey's
32 wine industry; promote the use of locally produced fruits in the making of New Jersey wines;
33 encourage support for new production research to increase the state's grape production and
34 expand the locally grown content of New Jersey wines.

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to increase demand and support the industry's
36 efforts to highlight the "Jersey Wines from Jersey Vines" brand and promote products from
37 New Jersey's American Viticulture Areas - the "Outer Coastal Plain," "Warren Hills," and
38 "Central Delaware Valley" - the Department continue taking steps to increase the sales, both
39 retail and wholesale, of New Jersey wines.

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department support the interdisciplinary
41 program of research and education established as the New Jersey Center for Wine
42 Research and Education at Rutgers University, spearheaded by industry stakeholders and
43 academics statewide, and having the following goals: to identify and address problems of
44 greatest importance to the New Jersey wine industry; to develop educational programs that
45 enhance, elevate and sustain the New Jersey wine industry, to analyze fundamental
46 production, marketing, economic, social and human issues as they might enhance the global
47 competitiveness of the New Jersey wine industry; and to coordinate and deploy expertise
48 and resources about wine grape growth, wine production, and marketing from a network of
49 resources.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the appropriate agencies to help
51 facilitate the development of craft breweries and distilleries as called for in the legislation
52 signed into law in 2013.

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the New Jersey Department of
54 Agriculture, working alone or in concert with other state and federal agencies, to support the
55 New Jersey grape industry in any way possible.

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support attempts, especially those tied to
57 crop failure, by New Jersey wineries to seek temporary waivers to requirements in farm
58 winery licenses for certain percentages of grapes used in making their wine to come from
59 New Jersey, provided those percentages return to normal as soon as practicable, and
60 provided the wineries do not exceed their highest year's production when using grapes from
61 other states.

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the Department to work with state and
63 local agencies to clarify at what levels nitrogen, potassium and/or phosphorous being
64 present in wastewater from micro-breweries and micro-distilleries create the need for a
65 Nutrient Management Plan to be filed by the operator of such facilities.