

## RESOLUTION # 38

### 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 in recent years about whether the disposal of  
25 even relatively small amounts of wastewater from micro-breweries and micro-distilleries,

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

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 106<sup>th</sup> State  
29 Agricultural Convention, assembled through a virtual platform hosted in Trenton, New Jersey,  
30 in accordance with COVID-19 pandemic recommendations, on February 17, 2021, do  
31 hereby urge the Department to continue taking steps to help the wine and grape industry  
32 increase grape production in an effort to increase the local agricultural input of New Jersey's  
33 wine industry; promote the use of locally produced fruits in the making of New Jersey wines;  
34 encourage support for new production research to increase the state's grape production and  
35 expand the locally grown content of New Jersey wines.

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support attempts, in situations tied to crop  
37 failure, and/or a declared statewide health crisis or natural disaster, by New Jersey wineries  
38 to seek temporary waivers to requirements in farm winery licenses for certain percentages of  
39 grapes used in making their wine to come from New Jersey, provided those percentages  
40 return to normal as soon as practicable, and provided the wineries do not exceed their  
41 highest year's production when using grapes from other states.

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

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the proposed general permits  
46 developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with  
47 agricultural leaders and health officials, to address the questions regarding nutrient  
48 management for on-farm breweries and distilleries, which are currently the subject of public  
49 comment after being published in the New Jersey Register.