

RESOLUTION # 42

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 products;
3 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 collected
13 by the New Jersey Wine Industry Advisory Council, and the Council prints promotional
14 materials, conducts publicity programs, funds promotional festivals and conducts varietal and
15 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**, legislation has been introduced to establish an Advisory Council for
25 Breweries, Meaderies and Distilleries to help promote this growing sector of beverage

26 production in New Jersey, and the State Board has submitted a letter to the Legislature
27 indicating that, if concerns can be addressed about increasing the number of farmers
28 required to be on this council, the Board would support the legislation; and

29 **WHEREAS**, questions have arisen in recent years about whether the disposal of
30 even relatively small amounts of wastewater from micro-breweries and micro-distilleries,
31 necessitates the need for the operator of such a facility to file a Nutrient Management Plan
32 with the state and/or local officials.

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 107th State
34 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, N.J., on February 9-10, 2022, do hereby
35 urge the Department to continue taking steps to help the wine and grape industry increase
36 grape production in an effort to increase the local agricultural input of New Jersey's wine
37 industry; promote the use of locally produced fruits in the making of New Jersey wines;
38 encourage support for new production research to increase the state's grape production and
39 expand the locally grown content of New Jersey wines.

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

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

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the State Board of Agriculture's
50 approach to the pending legislation to create an Advisory Council on Breweries, Meaderies
51 and Distilleries to promote those sectors of agriculture, provided the questions about
52 membership on that Council can be addressed to the Board's satisfaction.

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the proposed general permits
54 developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with
55 agricultural leaders and health officials, to address the questions regarding nutrient
56 management for on-farm breweries and distilleries.