

RESOLUTION # 38

WINERIES, BREWERIES, MEADERIES 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**, meaderies also are becoming popular features on farms, and they are
25 also geared toward featuring as much farm output as they can in producing meads; and

26 **WHEREAS**, like wineries, breweries, meaderies and distilleries, in order to navigate
27 years in which the crops they grow to make their beverages have significant failures due to
28 pests, disease, weather or other issues, should have some flexibility, in such cases of crop
29 failure, as to the amounts of crops grown on their farms that are used in their value-added
30 beverages; and

31 **WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced to establish an Advisory Council for
32 Breweries, Meaderies and Distilleries to help promote this growing sector of beverage
33 production in New Jersey, and the State Board has submitted a letter to the Legislature
34 indicating that, if concerns can be addressed about increasing the number of farmers
35 required to be on this council, the State Board would support the legislation; and

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

40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 108th State
41 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 8-9, 2023, do
42 hereby urge the Department to continue taking steps to help the wine and grape industry
43 increase grape production in an effort to increase the local agricultural input of New Jersey's
44 wine industry; promote the use of locally produced fruits in the making of New Jersey wines;
45 encourage support for new production research to increase the state's grape production and
46 expand the locally grown content of New Jersey wines.

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support attempts, in situations tied to crop
48 failure, and/or a declared statewide health crisis or natural disaster, by New Jersey wineries,
49 breweries, meaderies and distilleries to seek temporary waivers to requirements in farm
50 licenses for certain percentages of a farm's output used in making their beverages to come
51 from New Jersey, provided those percentages return to normal as soon as practicable, and
52 provided the wineries, breweries, meaderies and distilleries do not exceed their highest

53 year's production when using farm products from other states.

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

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

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