

RESOLUTION # 36

WINERIES, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

1 **WHEREAS**, wines from New Jersey's approximately 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
6 year wine industry adds an important diversification to New Jersey's agricultural sector,
7 offering 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
12 and 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
15 conducts varietal and production oriented research with these funds; and

16 **WHEREAS**, small-scale 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
19 products used both in the production of beer and as items on the menus of the pubs;
20 and

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

24 state; and

25 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey experienced extreme cold weather in early-2014, and
26 these cold temperatures caused damage to grapevines, which translated to a loss of
27 crop production in this season and loss of vines that will need to be replanted; and

28 **WHEREAS**, with this loss of plants and crops, it will take several years for the
29 industry to return to its previous state of production; and

30 **WHEREAS**, questions have arisen about whether the disposal of even relatively
31 small amounts of wastewater from micro-breweries and micro-distilleries necessitate that
32 the operator of such a facility file a Nutrient Management Plan with the state and/or local
33 officials.

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 100th
35 State Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 4-5,
36 2015, do hereby urge the Department to continue taking steps to help the wine and
37 grape industry increase grape production in an effort to increase the local agricultural
38 input of New Jersey's wine industry; promote the use of locally produced fruits in the
39 making of New Jersey wines; encourage support for new production research to
40 increase the state's grape production and expand the locally grown content of New
41 Jersey wines.

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

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department support the interdisciplinary
48 program of research and education established as the New Jersey Center for Wine
49 Research and Education at Rutgers University, spearheaded by industry stakeholders

50 and academics statewide, and having the following goals: to identify and address
51 problems of greatest importance to the New Jersey wine industry; to develop
52 educational programs that enhance, elevate and sustain the New Jersey wine industry,
53 to analyze fundamental production, marketing, economic, social and human issues as
54 they might enhance the global competitiveness of the New Jersey wine industry; and to
55 coordinate and deploy expertise and resources about wine grape growth, wine
56 production, and marketing from a network of resources.

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

60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge the New Jersey Department of
61 Agriculture, working alone or in concert with other state and federal agencies, to support
62 the New Jersey grape industry in any way possible to provide aid and services to help
63 overcome the damage caused by the extreme weather of Winter 2014.

64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support any attempts by New Jersey
65 wineries to seek temporary waivers to requirements in farm winery licenses for certain
66 percentages of grapes used in making their wine to come from New Jersey, provided
67 those percentages return to normal as soon as practicable, and provided the wineries do
68 not exceed their highest year's production when using grapes from other states.

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