

**Urging The New York State Legislature And Governor To Reject Proposal To Legalize Wine Sales In Retail Stores**

The Economic Development, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Rodriguez and Legislators Bischoff, Loughran, Sheeley, Harris, Roberti and Terrizzi) offers the following:

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2008, New York State Governor Patterson made a budget proposal to legalize and allow the sale of wine in grocery stores, and

WHEREAS, if this proposal becomes law and wine is sold in grocery stores, over 2,500 small businesses e.g. wine sellers, liquor stores and wineries will be severely affected and an estimated 1000 will be forced to close, causing a loss of up to 4,000 jobs which will not be recouped by grocers, and

WHEREAS, New York has independently owned licensees, legally responsible for preventing youth from purchasing alcohol, and this law would undermine current regulations and controls put in place to protect the public and minors, and

WHEREAS, states where wine is sold in retail stores including Florida, California and Texas have alcohol related fatalities that are more than double that of New York, and triple for those under age 21, and

WHEREAS, Ulster County is home to at least seven small wineries that will have difficulty competing for shelf space with large producers that will distribute to large retail stores, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby requests the New York State Legislature and Governor David Paterson to reconsider proposal to legalize wine sales in retail stores, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward a copy of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados and New York State Association of Counties,

**Resolution No. 76 March 11, 2009**

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and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 29 NOES: 1  
(NOES: Legislator Shapiro)  
(Absent: Legislators Harris and R.A. Parete)  
(Legislator Petit left at 8:15 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

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