
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4435

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Rayburn, Grant, Edmondson, Roland, Lisk, Riley, Ludwig, Bowman, Bray, Fraser, Leonard, Chandler, Haugen, Nealey, Paris, Brumsickle, Padden, Wynne and Anderson

Read first time 03/06/92. Referred to Committee on Rules Review.

1 WHEREAS, The history of wine dates back countless ages and is
2 recognized as the temperate, civilized, sacred, romantic mealtime
3 beverage recommended in the Bible; and

4 WHEREAS, Washington's own history with wine began with plantings by
5 Hudson's Bay Company settlers near Fort Vancouver in 1825; and

6 WHEREAS, The first documented European vinifera winegrapes were
7 planted in the Tampico area by German immigrants in 1871; and

8 WHEREAS, Washington has since developed to become the second
9 largest producer of vinifera winegrapes in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Washington now grows more than eleven thousand acres of
11 vinifera winegrapes producing an average of thirty-nine thousand tons
12 of grapes per year valued at sixteen million five hundred thousand
13 dollars; and

14 WHEREAS, Tax revenues from the sale of Washington wine have made a
15 significant contribution to the general revenue and several dedicated
16 programs; and

1 WHEREAS, Tax revenues devoted to wine marketing and wine research
2 have helped the Washington wine industry gain recognition as one of the
3 world's great wine growing regions and have paid diverse dividends to
4 the state; and

5 WHEREAS, Washington currently has over seventy-five separate
6 wineries which sell over five million three hundred thousand gallons of
7 premium table wine in all fifty states and over twenty foreign
8 countries at a retail value over one hundred thirty-two million five
9 hundred thousand dollars; and

10 WHEREAS, The combined economic impact of Washington wineries and
11 vineyards involves twenty-seven other sectors of the state economy for
12 a total of forty million dollars; and

13 WHEREAS, Washington wineries serve as an important attraction to a
14 significant number of tourists visiting our region; and

15 WHEREAS, Washington wines have become highly recognized in national
16 and international press and continue to garner awards at
17 disproportionately high levels in comparison to the volume of wines
18 entered in distinguished international competitions; and

19 WHEREAS, Washington wine, which refreshes the palate and enhances
20 the appetite, has played a significant role in the development and
21 recognition of culture and cuisine of the entire Northwest region; and

22 WHEREAS, Premium table wine, when consumed in moderation, has been
23 found in numerous studies to provide diverse healthful benefits, with
24 documented positive impact on reduction of coronary disease; and

25 WHEREAS, Premium table wine, as a mealtime beverage of moderation,
26 enhances family values and provides an important base for family
27 education about its proper use and enjoyment; and

28 WHEREAS, Traditional use of premium table wine is not associated
29 with social ills as crime, motor vehicle accidents, and lost
30 productivity resulting from abuse; and

1 WHEREAS, The Washington wine industry is recognized by this body as
2 practicing exemplary standards of advertising and commercial ethics;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Washington wineries are recognized as supporters of
5 community groups through event sponsorship and contributions; and

6 WHEREAS, Washington wine is an agriculturally based food beverage
7 of moderation which brings pride to the State of Washington;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives,
9 the Senate concurring, That the Legislature of the State of Washington
10 commends the vintners of this state for their dedication to history and
11 quality and also commends them for their commitment to enhancing their
12 environment and communities; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature believes that
14 Washington's reputation as an exceptional wine region and its wines
15 should continue to be promoted throughout the state and all other
16 markets of interest; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
18 month of September 1992, as "Washington Wine Appreciation Month," and
19 likewise proclaims the month of September of each year as "Washington
20 Wine Appreciation Month," to promote recognition and appreciation for
21 the Washington wine industry.