

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 94

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 21

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 94—Relative to wineries.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 5, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 94, Evans. “California Wines: Down to Earth” month.

This measure would proclaim April 2014 as the “California Wines: Down to Earth” month, to celebrate the sustainable leadership of California wineries and winegrape growers.

WHEREAS, Sustainability is a vital part of the long-term future of California wine, which contributes an estimated \$61.5 billion in annual economic impact to California’s economy; and

WHEREAS, The Wine Institute and the California Association of Winegrape Growers created the California Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Workbook more than a decade ago, with the third edition released in January 2013, and it has since been used by vineyards and wineries representing three quarters of California’s winegrape acreage and production to self-assess operations; and

WHEREAS, The Sustainable Winegrowing Program, now managed by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, is comprised of more than 200 best practices for vineyards and wineries that benefit the environment, employees, neighbors, and high-quality wine; and

WHEREAS, Other state and regional sustainability programs, such as Lodi Rules, Sustainability in Practice (SIP), Napa Green, Fish Friendly Farming, the California Green Business Program, and others, all play an important role in the California wine communities’ efforts to grow grapes and produce wine in a manner that is environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable; and

WHEREAS, Growing participation in sustainable organic, and biodynamic, certification programs further conveys California vintners’ and growers’ adherence to high standards, desire for transparency, and dedication to continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, California’s wine community conserves water, energy, and other natural resources, protects habitat, employee welfare, and air, water, and soil quality, and promotes the use of natural pest management and alternative energy and fuels; and

WHEREAS, California’s 3,800 wineries and 4,600 winegrape growers are primarily family businesses, with a long-term commitment to the health and vitality of their communities, and to preserving the land for future generations; and

WHEREAS, California's winegrape growers and vintners commitment to sustainability has been documented in a newly published book, Down to Earth, A Seasonable Tour of Sustainable Winegrowing in California; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims April 2014 as the time to celebrate the sustainable leadership of California wineries and winegrape growers with the theme, "California Wines: Down to Earth" month, timed to Earth Day on April 22; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.