

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1781

A RESOLUTION urging the Kansas congressional delegation to work with operators of Kansas wineries and the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to apply for and achieve American Viticultural Area status for one or more regions within the state.

WHEREAS, The grape-growing and wine-producing potential of Kansas was first noted by early explorers, including Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who described "great quantities of summer and fall grapes" along the shore of the Missouri River in the northeast corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, A grape-growing and wine-producing industry was established by some of Kansas' earliest settlers, including A.M. Burns of Riley County who, in 1857, predicted "a glorious future for the grape in Kansas," and whose prediction began to ring true after the end of the Civil War when the planting of grape vines peaked at 7,000 acres, grown across the state from the western plains to the eastern hills; and

WHEREAS, The thriving industry was pushed underground and nearly eradicated by the strong forces of prohibition, which swept across the state in the 1890s and continued into the mid-20th century; and

WHEREAS, The industry in Kansas has witnessed a resurgence since the loosening of alcohol regulation in the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, The most recent available state Department of Agriculture data from 2010 reports that nearly 355 tons of grapes were grown and more than 100,000 gallons of wine were produced in the state of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In the same year, Kansas wineries reported more than a quarter-million visitors, more than half of whom were visiting from other states; and

WHEREAS, In the same year Kansas wineries reported nearly \$3.5 million in sales, which contributed to the state economy; and

WHEREAS, American Viticultural Areas (AVAs) are delineated grape-growing regions within the United States, which possess distinguishing geological and geographic characteristics; and

WHEREAS, Consumers throughout the country and around the world utilize AVA labels to identify the quality and reputation of wines produced with grapes grown in these regions; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is one of 25 states without an established AVA; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of one or several AVAs within the state of Kansas would aid and promote further development of the historic and burgeoning wine-producing industry in our state: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we urge the Kansas congressional delegation to work with operators of Kansas wineries and the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to apply for and achieve AVA status for one or more regions within the state; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send three enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Holland and an enrolled copy to each member of the Kansas congressional delegation.

Senate Resolution No. 1781 was sponsored by Senators Holland, Haley and Lynn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.