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**STATE'S WINERIES JOIN FIGHT AGAINST PROPOSAL
TO SELL WINE IN 19,000 NEW OUTLETS**

Nearly 100 New York Wineries Oppose Governor's Plan

NEW YORK, NY March 1, 2010 – Wineries from Long Island to Western New York, and from the Hudson Valley to the Thousand Islands, have joined the fight to defeat Governor Paterson's misguided plan to legalize the sale of wine in every grocery store, deli, mini-mart, gas station, and bodega in New York.

"This plan will only hurt our businesses and hurt our partners in the wine and liquor stores," said William Ouweleen of Eagle Crest Vineyards in the Finger Lakes. "Big Box stores will stock the most popular, lowest priced brands on their shelves, leaving little space for New York wines. In addition, wine stores around the state will be forced out of business – severely curtailing our ability to reach our customers. The Legislature must reject this job-killing plan immediately."

Nearly 100 wineries from every region in New York have joined forces with the Last Store on Main Street Coalition, which includes small business owners, independent wine sellers, and wholesalers from around the state fighting to stop the Governor's proposal to legalize the sale of wine wherever beer is now sold.

The growing number of wineries in opposition to Paterson's plan represents approximately 35 percent of wineries in the state, with the majority of others remaining neutral on the issue. Last year, 75 wineries opposed the Governor's defeated idea to sell wine in grocery stores, representing a nearly 25 percent increase in the state's wineries opposing the Governor's plan this year.

Duncan Ross of Arrowhead Spring Vineyards in the Niagara Escarpment, said, "As the owner of a New York winery, I am very concerned about the effect this legislation will have on the sale of New York wines, because it will disproportionately reduce the number of outlets for New York wine. While on the surface it appears that wine in grocery stores would benefit consumers and wineries, this is not the case. Selection of wine would be reduced and sales for wineries will suffer, and as a result the smaller wineries won't be able to grow into larger wineries."

Jeff Saunders, president of the Retailers Alliance and founder of the Last Store Coalition, said, "New York retailers deeply appreciate the support we have received from the wineries in this battle. New York wineries make great wines, and we are proud to promote them in our stores. We look forward to defeating Paterson's plan again this year and continuing the partnership with New York's wineries to make it even stronger in the years ahead."

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In addition to the wineries, the Governor's proposal has sparked strong opposition from the law enforcement community, which fears that providing teenagers with greater access to alcohol will heighten the risk of underage drinking and fatal drunk driving accidents.

No state in more than 28 years has approved legislation legalizing the sale of wine in grocery stores, with Kentucky, Tennessee and Colorado joining New York in the last year in rejecting efforts by Big Box stores to take over this business. Massachusetts voters rejected the idea in a referendum in 2008.

The list of wineries opposing the Governor's misguided plan includes:

Long Island

Baiting Hollow Farm Vineyard	Onabay Winery
Bedell Cellars	One Woman Wines
Bouke Wines	Osprey's Dominion Vineyards
Bridge Vineyards	Palmer Vineyards
Castello di Borghese Vineyard	Paumanok Vineyards, Ltd.
Clovis Point/East End Vineyards	Pellegrini Vineyards, LLC
Corey Creek Vineyards	Pindar Vineyards
Croteaux Vineyards	Pugliese Vineyards
Diliberto Winery	Raphael Winery
Duck Walk Vineyards	Roanoke Vineyards
Jamesport Vineyards	Scarola Vineyards
Laurel Lake Vineyards	Shinn Estate Vineyards
Lieb Family Cellars	The Lenz Winery
Macari Vineyards & Winery	Vineyard 48
Martha Clara Vineyards	Wölffer Estate Vineyard

Hudson Valley

Amici Vineyard and Winery	Clinton Vineyards, Inc.
Baldwin Vineyards	Glorie Farm Winery
Benmarl Winery at Slate Hill Vineyards	Hudson Chatham Winery
Brimstone Hill Vineyard	Millbrook Vineyards & Winery
Brookview Station Winery	Palaia Vineyards
Brotherhood, America's Oldest Winery	Robibero Family Winery
Cascade Mountain Winery	Warwick Valley Winery
	Whitecliff Vineyard and Winery

Lake Ontario & Thousand Islands

Coyote Moon	Thousand Islands Winery
Otter Creek Winery, LLC	Yellow Barn Winery
Seaway Coldhardy Grapes & Vineyard	

Finger Lakes

Americana Vineyards
Bully Hill Vineyards, Inc.
Buttonwood Grove Winery
Casa Larga Vineyards
Castel Grisch Estate Winery
Chateau Frank, Inc.
Chateau LaFayette Reneau
Crooked Lake Winery
Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars
Eagle Crest Vineyards, Inc.
Earle Estates Meadery
Fulkerson Winery
Glenora Wine Cellars
Goose Watch Winery
Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard, Inc.
Heron Hill Winery
Hunt Country Vineyards

Imagine Moore Winery
Keuka Spring Vineyards
Knapp Winery
Lamoreaux Landing Wine Cellars
Lucas Vineyards
Montezuma Winery & Hidden Marsh Distillery
Penguin Bay Winery & Champagne House
Ravines Wine Cellars
Rock Stream Vineyards
Rooster Hill Vineyards
Shalestone Vineyards, LLC
Shaw Vineyards
Silver Springs Winery
Standing Stone Vineyards
Swedish Hill Vineyards
Thirsty Owl Wine Company
Torrey Ridge Winery

Lake Erie

Johnson Estate Winery
Mazza Chautauqua Cellars
Merritt Estate Winery
Quincy Cellars
Sparkling Ponds Winery
Vetter Vineyards Winery
Willow Creek Winery

Niagara Escarpment and Greater Niagara Region

Arrowhead Spring Vineyards
Eveningside Vineyards
Honeymoon Trail Winery
Niagara Landing Wine Cellars Inc.
Vizcarra Vineyards/Becker Farms

The Last Store on Main Street Coalition is a group of small business advocates, local wine store owners and wholesalers working together to defeat Governor Paterson's reckless plan to legalize wine sales in every corner store, mini-mart, deli, bodega, grocery store and supermarket in New York.

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