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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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To: Senate/Assembly Colleagues
From: Senator O'Mara
Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2013
Subject: NYS Legislative Wine Pledge

A Pledge to Support NY Wineries

The rise of the grape and wine industry is a remarkable New York State success story. From an industry on the brink of collapse just three short decades ago, to the present-day national and international renown enjoyed by so many New York winemakers, each and every member of the New York State Legislature, past and present, can and should take great pride in the steps our members have taken to recognize the industry's importance to our great Empire State -- and to help establish the industry's short- and long-term prosperity.

Today New York serves as the third-largest wine producing state in the United States. More than 250 wineries statewide, with approximately 200 of these wineries having been established during the past 30 years. A vital industry offering livelihoods to thousands upon thousands of New York workers and their families, while annually contributing billions of dollars to our state and local economies. Over three million people visit New York's wineries every year. One-third of these visitors come from out of state.

In short, the New York State wine and grape industry has fully earned and justified this Legislature's ongoing commitment and support.

As elected officials in the great State of New York, we enjoy unique opportunities to promote the industry's quality, to assist its continued growth and vitality here at home, as well as to strengthen its competitive standing across the nation and around the world for generations to come.

Therefore, I, _____, pledge
that as a Member of the:

New York State Assembly, _____ District
New York Senate, _____ District

will fully stand behind the New York State grape and wine industry by agreeing, at any and all events and functions sanctioned by my legislative office or campaign organization at which wine will be served, to serve New York State-produced wines.

Dated: _____ Signature of Member/Candidate _____

(Please return signed pledge to LOB 812 by Thursday January 31, 2013. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Kim at 455-2091).