



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is home to a growing number of vineyards, and the wine and grape industry is one of the fastest growing segments of Tennessee agriculture and experiencing unprecedented growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the wine community is an important sector of agribusiness in Tennessee and wineries are flourishing across the Volunteer State; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of wineries in Tennessee has grown from a base of 26 bonded wineries in 2000 to more than 75 bonded wineries in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 and 2012 Censuses of Agriculture show that Tennessee has seen a 56% increase in grape acreage from 580 to 905 acres; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee grape and wine industry directly provides employment for more than 400 people, including self-employed owner-operators, with recent analysis showing 20% year-over-year job growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual economic impact of Tennessee-produced wine is estimated at between \$40 million and \$60 million; and

**WHEREAS**, vineyards and wineries play an important role in Tennessee's tourism industry, with wineries and vineyards significantly enhancing tourism in the State by providing unique travel destinations, green space, and aesthetic appeal; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Grape and Wine Month is an opportunity to celebrate Tennessee's rich wine heritage with citizens and business and community leaders working in the wine industry;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim May, 2018 as

## *Wine and Grape Appreciation Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this fifth day of March, 2018.

A blue ink signature of Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee.

Governor

A blue ink signature of Jeff Yarbro, Secretary of State.

Secretary of State