



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## St. Lawrence County Wine Trail Included in Senate Budget

PATTY RITCHIE March 20, 2014

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### **Plan Would Put Local Wineries and Vineyards on the Map, Boost Local Business, Create Jobs**

State Senator Patty Ritchie has announced the recently approved Senate budget proposal includes a measure to establish a St. Lawrence County Wine Trail; a plan that would help put local vineyards and winemakers on the map, attract more tourists to the area and boost local business, create jobs in the region.

“The North Country has a perfect opportunity to capitalize on the fast-growing wine and grape industries by creating a St. Lawrence Wine Trail that links our area’s vineyards and winemakers,” said Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Senator Patty Ritchie.

“The inclusion of the St. Lawrence Wine Trail in the Senate’s spending plan represents a major step for this legislation. I’m looking forward to working to make sure the proposal—which would create new business, employment and tourism opportunities—is included in the final enacted budget.”

Under the proposed legislation (S.6321/A.8885), the St. Lawrence County Wine Trail would start near Black Lake’s Bella Brooke Winery in Morristown, extending to Lisbon’s River Myst Winery and then to High Peaks Winery in Winthrop. The trail is being designed to also bring visitors to St. Lawrence Brewing’s microbrewery in Canton, allowing the four companies additional opportunities to work together to market themselves.

According to the New York State Wine and Grape Foundation more than 250 new wineries have opened across the state over the past 27 years. A recent study by the foundation also determined that there are nearly 5 million tourists who visit annually to take advantage of the state’s wineries. In addition, the study

suggested that those tourists spend \$376.5 million annually on wine-related expenditures.