

April 26, 2010

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Washington Wine Industry Opposes H.R. 5034

Dear Congressman Dicks:

On behalf of the Washington wine industry, we request your opposition to the Comprehensive Alcohol Regulatory Effectiveness (CARE) Act of 2010 (H.R. 5034), which would effectively remove the Constitutional balancing tests to define the limits of a State's authority under the 21st amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This would tip the balance toward discriminatory and non-competitive laws.

Our, now world-class, wine industry contributes more than \$4.7 billion to the nation's economy and employs nearly 19,000 people, most of whom are located in small communities.

For Washington wineries, H.R. 5034 could:

- reverse progress made to allow wine producers to sell wine directly to consumers in other states, and discourage other states from following Washington's lead in modernizing our wine laws
- cause devastating financial impact to particularly our small wineries who rely on self-distribution and direct shipping to get their product to market
- significantly increase cost and labor associated with complying with separate state regulations regarding winery permitting, wine labeling and advertising all of which are currently managed federally by the Department of Treasury Tax & Trade Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission
- reduce choice for consumers who choose to purchase wine from wineries who may not have distribution in their state

States currently utilize their very broad authority to regulate the sale of wine, beer and spirits. This authority has been upheld by courts and new legislation is not necessary to help states accomplish their legitimate regulatory goals.

Together, the Washington Wine Commission, the Washington Wine Institute and the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers strongly oppose H.R. 5034 and ask that you support your in-state wine industry by rejecting this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

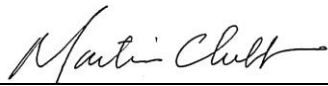
Sincerely,

REPRESENTING THE WASHINGTON WINE INDUSTRY



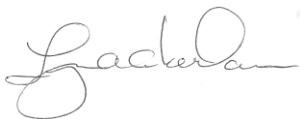
John Bookwalter, Chair
Washington Wine Commission

The Washington Wine Commission represents wineries and wine grape growers and provides a marketing platform to raise positive awareness of the Washington wine industry and generate greater demand for its wines. Funded by industry through grape and wine assessments, based on sales, the Commission is a state government agency, established in 1987 by the Washington State Legislature.



Martin Clubb, President
Washington Wine Institute

The Washington Wine Institute has been the voice for legislative and regulatory advocacy for Washington wineries for over 25 years and has a strong record of working on behalf of the industry with the State Legislature, Executive offices and relevant regulatory agencies to improve the business climate for wine through progressive reform of state wine and liquor laws. They represent a broad range of wineries doing business in Washington State, from the very smallest operations to the largest.



Lynne Chamberlain, Chair
Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers

The Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers represents the Washington wine growing industry through advocacy and education. They promote a positive business environment for continued growth and production of world-class, Washington-grown wines and focus on the business interests of wine growers/producers whether they are new or seasoned.