

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2009

The Honorable Ronald Kirk
Ambassador
U.S. Trade Representative
600 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

As lawmakers with an interest in wine producing states, we write to express our concern regarding the decision by the European Community to prohibit the sale of U.S. wines with labels containing "traditional terms" from European Community markets.

As you know, on September 9, 2008 the European Community gave notice terminating provisions of the Wine Agreement of 2006 that allowed U.S. wines with labels containing certain otherwise prohibited "traditional terms" to be sold in European Community markets. As a result, these markets have been closed since March to U.S. wines with labels containing the terms, subject to a narrowly limited exception for trademarks that is expected to be repealed later this year as part of the reform of the Common Market Organization for Wine.

There are several U.S. wineries that are impacted by this decision. If the European Community's recent action overturning decades-long acceptance of these terms is allowed to stand, these wineries will be required to withdraw brands that have been sold for many years in the European markets. The loss of these markets will financially harm local businesses in the communities we represent.

With our economy already suffering, these businesses cannot afford to lose access to European markets. Therefore, we would like to inquire as to whether there is an action planned to address this matter. We look forward to hearing from you and working together to encourage and support efforts to market U.S. produced wines across the world. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress



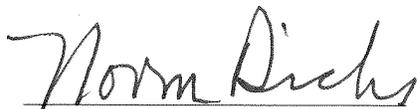
DOC HASTINGS
Member of Congress



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



GEORGE RADANOVICH
Member of Congress



NORMAN D. DICKS
Member of Congress



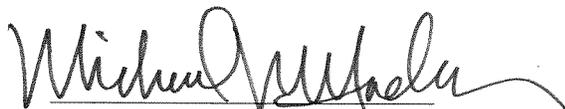
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress



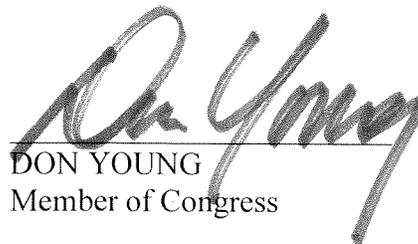
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Member of Congress



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DON YOUNG
Member of Congress



LOIS CAPPS
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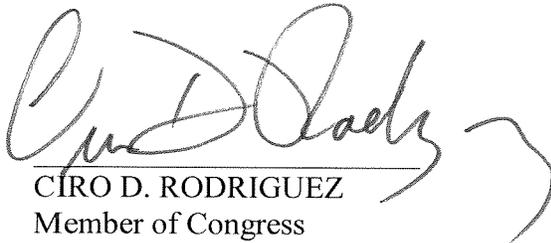
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EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress


KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress


BART GORDON
Member of Congress


DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress

cc:

Thomas Hogue

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

1310 G Street NW

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