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February 23, 2006

Director, Regulations and Rulings Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
Attn: Notice No. 55  
P. O. Box 14412  
Washington, DC 20044-4412

Re: Saddle Rock-Malibu Petition (2003R-110P)

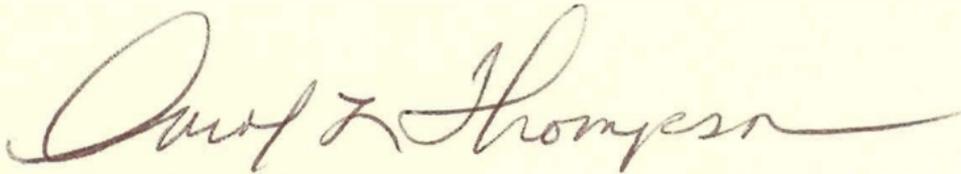
Dear Director:

I am writing in support of the petition submitted by Lisa A. Semler and Derek Baugh of Semler Malibu Estate Vineyards for establishment of the Saddle Rock-Malibu Viticultural Area. Having recently toured the vineyard, I believe that the proposed area meets the requirements for being recognized as a distinctive wine-producing region.

The proposed viticultural area's topography is uniquely representative of the Santa Monica Mountain coastal range which rises steeply up from the Pacific Ocean to its west. Where mild weather, fog, and cool breezes dominate at the beach, the temperature climbs significantly as the sun burns through the marine layer and beats down on the slopes of the area. Also, the area is situated so that it's actually its own valley within the coastal range, which protects it from weather extremes and high winds, thus creating its own microclimate. On the easterly side of the vineyard, the land sharply slopes down about 1,000 feet into a deep valley.

I am a Los Angeles native who has traveled extensively throughout the state of California, and I have visited many wine-growing regions. I believe that Saddle Rock-Malibu should be designated as its own viticultural area due to its geographical features, which includes a Chumash Indian pictograph site and several unique rock formations, its location within the Santa Monica Mountain range, and its proximity to the city of Los Angeles and the stunning Malibu coast.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol L. Thompson