(1)

[redacted]
Marlborough, NH 03455
14 October 1993

Chief
Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221
ATTN: Notice No. 781

To whom it may concern:

I am writing concerning Notice No. 781 which appeared in the vol. 58, no. 184 issue of Federal Register. I would like to express my support for the "Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area."

I have visited the Lake Wisconsin area, and the Wollersheim winery in particular, several times during the last several years when I lived in southern Wisconsin. This beautiful area has a lengthy history of winemaking which is continued today under the care of Bob Wollersheim. Bob has produced numerous excellent wines and his care for the region and winemaking show in a number of other areas as well. For example, he frequently teaches wine appreciation courses, two of which I have taken.

The Lake Wisconsin area is a region with many qualities which differentiate it from other wine-producing regions. Similarly, the Wollersheim wines are unique. Therefore, I believe that this area should be recognized as an official viticultural area, thus putting the foremost Midwestern wines (in my opinion) on the map, so to speak.

Please register these comments in favor of establishing the Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Woltemade

Christopher J. Woltemade

SCOTT KLUG
SECOND DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ENERGY AND POWER
CO-CHAIR
REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4902

October 15, 1993

Mr. Thomas Busey
Chief, Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms
Attention Notice No. 781
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Mr. Busey:

I am writing in support of the petition filed on behalf of Wollersheim Winery for the establishment of "Lake Wisconsin," an area in south central Wisconsin, as a viticultural area.

This picturesque area, designated as "Lake Wisconsin", deserves to be recognized as a viticultural area not only because of Wisconsin's contributions to the history of wine production but also its contributions to modern wine production.

As one of the few wineries in Wisconsin, the Wollersheim Winery is a unique and important establishment. It has been recognized for its historic role here in the state. Wine grapes were first planted on Wollersheim Winery property in 1847 and in 1976 the winery and the adjacent homestead were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Wollersheim's vineyard is located on a steep slope overlooking the Wisconsin River. This breathtaking vista supports not only the rich soils of the winery, but also a number of bald eagles which soar majestically over the fields. The vineyard adds greatly to the awesome natural beauty of the region.

I strongly support the establishment of the Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area because Wisconsin and the wine industry in general will benefit from this designation. If you need additional information, please contact my Constituent Liaison, Cristi Fusch, in my District Office in Madison.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Klug
Member of Congress

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

☐ 1224 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4902
(202) 225-2906

☑ 16 NORTH CARROLL STREET
ROOM 600
MADISON, WI 53703
(608) 257-9200

SK:cf

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE OF RECYCLED FIBERS

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[redacted]
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

16 October, 1993

Chief
Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
PO Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221
Attn: Notice No. 781

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It has come to my attention that Wollersheim Winery is under review for nomination as the Roxbury Viticultural District and that comments should be directed to your office. I am writing to heartily support this nomination.

Wollersheim Winery is a well known and well respected institution in this region for its pursuit of quality in wine production and presentation. The numerous national awards and their success in sales over the years speaks to the quality product; but this is something you may already be aware of. Something you may not know of, which I believe to be an integral to responsible winemaking, is their work in preserving an ambience of tradition. Wollersheim actively promotes a respect for the history behind winemaking in general. Moreover the winemaker ensures that even the casual visitor is aware of the continuity of this tradition as transplanted from the Old to the New World. But most importantly, Wollersheim educates its public about the unique characteristics of winemaking in its region - Wisconsin.

I enjoy wine and the history behind wines very much. Though I do not consider myself to be a wine "connoisseur" I have toured wineries in Germany, Italy, France and, closer to home, California, Michigan, and Missouri. In my judgment Wollersheim deserves to be recognized as a distinguished part of this winemaking tradition.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Barrett

Chief
Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
P. O. Box 50221
Washington, D. C. 20091-0221
ATTN: Notice No. 781

To whom it may concern:

I am responding to public Notice No. 781 which appeared in the vol., 58(184) of the Federal Register. It is my intent to express my support for the Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area as put forth by Charles Dean on behalf of Wollersheim Winery.

It is no geographical fluke or mere historical footnote that has resulted in Wollersheim Winery being located where it is today. The site was originally chosen for viticulture by Baron Agoston Haraszthy, the father of the California wine industry, for good reason. The south facing limestone slopes of the viticultural area proposed receive the benefit of more direct sunlight in the critical periods of early Spring and late fall than do the surrounding slopes. They also receive reflected sunlight from the Wisconsin River during these times in a manner similar to the great properties along the Rhine, and the Cote D'or in Burgundy. Baron Haraszthy's efforts lacked only the hardier French-American grape varietals that are now available for success.

That the winery is a success today as a result of the efforts of the Wollersheim family has been known in the region for some time. I have friends who come from Minneapolis annually to visit the winery and purchase their yearly needs. One only has to look at the November, 1993 issue of Bon Appetit magazine, where the 1991 Domaine Reserve is one of the Top Ten wines of the month, to see that this reputation for quality is richly deserved.

I believe that the "Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area" is a valid of the viticultural area concept. The area has a unique combination of soils, landscape position, and microclimate which make it particulary suited to the production of quality wine grapes. Many aspects of this "uniqueness" are shared by some of the greatest vineyards in Europe. The area also has a long and rich history of wine production. This history includes the great strides toward creating wines of quality and distinction that the Wollersheim's themselves have made in the past decade.

Please register my comments in favor of establishing Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area.

Sincerely,

Garry Leonard Running IV

HERB KOHL
WISCONSIN

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
330 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903
(202) 224-5653
T.D.D. (202) 224-4464

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY
SMALL BUSINESS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

(5)

October 19, 1993

Chief, Wine and Beer Branch
ATTN: CFR Notice #781
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the efforts of the Lake Wisconsin, Wisconsin region to be named a federally recognized "Viticultural Area". I believe that the region meets the standards of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) to receive such a designation.

Wollersheim Winery in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, the heart of the region, produces wine which is internationally recognized for its quality and characteristics. Efforts to produce wine within the region date to 1847 when Agoston Haraszthy, a Hungarian immigrant, established America's first vineyard there. Wine growing and making in the region continued until 1900.

Currently, Wollersheim Winery is well-recognized attraction in the area. Many tourists and local people alike have visited the winery, taken their wine tasting instruction and participated in other related activities. Wollersheim wines are a compliment to many Wisconsin, American and international dinner tables.

A unique set of geographical and geological conditions exist which make this area notable, including well-drained glacial till, warmer than average winters and reduced rainfall. These contribute to the physical conditions that lend the region to wine production.

Please give your most serious consideration to naming this region the Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area. Thank you for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,

Herb Kohl

HERB KOHL, U.S.S.

MILWAUKEE OFFICE:
205 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 297-4451
T.D.D. (414) 297-4485

MADISON OFFICE:
14 WEST MIFFLIN STREET
SUITE 312
MADISON, WI 53703
(608) 264-5338

KENOSHA OFFICE:
625 52nd STREET
ROOM 303
KENOSHA, WI 53140
(414) 657-7719

EAU CLAIRE OFFICE:
402 GRAHAM AVENUE
SUITE 206
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701
(715) 832-8424

APPLETON OFFICE:
4321 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE
SUITE 235
APPLETON, WI 54914
(414) 738-1640

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

TOMMY G. THOMPSON

Governor
State of Wisconsin

October 21, 1993

Chief, Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091-0221

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I would like to take this opportunity to formally request that you designate the Lake Wisconsin area of Wisconsin as a federally designated Viticultural Area.

Wisconsin has played an important part in American winemaking history, pre-dating much of California winemaking history. Modern winemaking continues to grow in reputation too, as more and more national awards are granted to wines grown in the Lake Wisconsin region.

I believe that establishment of the Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area will add recognition to the State of Wisconsin for another one of its diverse agricultural products.

Thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,

TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

TGT/dkt

Room 115 East, State Capitol, P.O. Box 7863, Madison, Wisconsin 53707 • (608) 266-1212 • FAX (608) 267-8983

7

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

October 21, 1993

Chief, Wine and Beer Branch
Attn: Notice 781
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
POB 50221
Washington, DC 20091-0221

To Whom it May Concern,

We are pleased to write to you on behalf of Robert and JoAnn Wollersheim of Wollersheim Winery near Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin concerning the proposed establishment of the "Lake Wisconsin Viticultural Area." This unique geographical region of Wisconsin holds historical winemaking significance for both Wisconsin and American winemaking.

The roots of Wisconsin and American winemaking can be traced to the first American vineyard of Agoston Haraszthy. Mr. Haraszthy, an early immigrant to Wisconsin, planted his first American vineyard in southcentral Wisconsin in 1847 in the region that is now the Wollersheim Winery. Soon after, he moved to California and forged his name permanently in American winemaking history. This early planting of wine grapes on the banks of the Wisconsin River provides a valuable and historical link between modern American winemaking and its early beginnings.

We who live in the "Lake Wisconsin" region share a strong fondness for the unique geography of this area of our state. The area is nestled in the Wisconsin River valley. The Wisconsin River is the largest inland river in Wisconsin and was forged by the receding ice of the last glacial period. Because of this, the area is filled with a variety of geographic structures, which include limestone outcroppings, natural lakes, sharp elevation changes, fertile soil, and deep valleys. The particular spot in which Wollersheim Winery is situated is uniquely surrounded by many of these geographic structures which results in a more moderate climate than the harsh weather for which Wisconsin is all too well known.

It is our hope the "Lake Wisconsin" region will be given strong consideration for designation as a viticultural area. This beautiful region is known throughout much of the Midwest because of its distinguishing geographical wonders. Coupled with its early winemaking heritage, geography and the quality of grapes grown there today, we think this region would make a valuable addition to the list of viticultural regions of the United States.

With kindest regards,

Dale

Dale W. Schultz
State Senator

Sheryl

Sheryl Albers
State Representative