WOMEN'S
ECONOMIC
GROWTH

(916) 938-2658

251 Main Street
P. O. Box 441
Weed, CA 96094

24 January 1994

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

Attn: Notice No. 787

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express the support of Women's Economic Growth for the designation of the area known as Seiad Valley as the "Seiad Valley Viticultural Area."

This designation will create the potential and provide incentive for grape growers to locate their operations in this area of Siskiyou County. Such operations would promote the diversification of the local economy which suffers from a dependence on declining industries such as timber and mining. New, value-added industries which locate in this area can only lend to a healthy local economy.

Women's Economic Growth is a private, non-profit organization which promotes the economic self-sufficiency of Siskiyou County residents through the provision of innovative business training and financing services.

Sincerely,

Susan Brown

Susan Brown
Executive Director

Vern Coenenberg
[redacted]
Palo Alto, CA. 94306
January 25, 1994

Dear Sir:

In regard to Mr. Brian Helsaple's petition to establish a Viticulture Area in Siskiyou County to be known as Seiad Valley, I would like to state that I have watched Mr. Helsaple's progress from the first vine planted through his bottling process and believe he has proven beyond a doubt that growing a vinyard on old gold mine tailing (on the rocks) has been a success.

Naming Seiad Valley as a Viticulture Area would be an important step in creating a new industry which is sorely needed in this area. In addition, it would help tourism in this beautiful valley.

I would also state that the finished product is of excellent quality.I have purchased approximately two cases of Mr. Helsaple's wine to give as gifts and have received nothing but compliments on the wine.

Naming Seiad Valley as a Viticulture Area would be a positive, with no negative aspects.

Respectfully yours,
Vern Coenenberg
Vern Coenenberg

A.J. Coenenberg
[redacted]
Palo Alto, CA. 94306
January 27, 1993

Chief, Wine & Beer Branch
Bureau of Alchohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chief:

As a property owner in Seiad Valley, I was pleased to learn that Brian Helsaple's pioneering efforts to successfully grow grapes on old gold dredging tailing is being recognized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

I believe that designation of Seiad Valley as a specific Viticulture Area would attract other grape growers and be most helpful in laying the foundation for another industry for this economically depressed area.

Considering the fact that many acres of now unproductive land in Seiad areas and along the Klamath River could be reclaimed and converted to productive agricultural use, this may very be the highest and best use for this land.

Further more the vineyards would remove the ugly scars left by the gold dredges and greatly enhance the natural beauty of the area as a tourist area.

Having followed Mr. Helsaple's unique vineyard project from its inception through the successful production of high quality grapes and excellent wines, I would like to go on record as being in support of the designation of Seiad Valley as a Viticulture Area.

Sincerely,
A.J. Coenenberg
A.J. Coenenberg

BARBARA BOXER
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

DEPUTY WHIP

United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 112
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505
(202) 224-3553

1700 MONTGOMERY STREET
SUITE 240
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(415) 403-0100

2250 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
SUITE 545
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245
(310) 414-5700

525 B STREET
SUITE 990
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 239-3884

2300 TULARE STREET
SUITE 130
FRESNO, CA 93721
(209) 497-5109

February 10, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Busey:

I am writing in support of the establishment of a viticultural area, to be known as "Seiad Valley," in Siskiyou County, California.

Designating this distinct region as a viticultural area will help to spark economic growth in a community that has been hard-hit by the disappearance of timber and mining-based industries. Viticulture appears to present an appropriate and sustainable economic alternative for this area of California.

Thank you for giving this matter your most prompt and serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer

BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator

BB:jhh:hr

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Klamath National Forest
1312 Fairlane Road
Yreka, CA 96097
(916) 842-6131

Reply To: 3610

Date: January 25, 1994

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

Attn: Notice No. 787

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is in response to the proposed establishment of the "Seiad Valley" viticultural area in Siskiyou County, California. The proposed area consists mainly of privately-owned lands within the boundaries of the Klamath National Forest, though it also includes some National Forest lands within its perimeter as well.

We support the designation of Seiad Valley as a viticultural area. We are personally familiar with Mr. Brian Helsaple's vineyard at Seiad Valley, and concur in his assessment that the area is well suited to additional vineyards. The area proposed, including lands south of the Klamath River along Grider Creek, does comprise a distinctive zone with regard to geographical features, topography, soil, and climate.

Seiad Valley is one of many places that have suffered greatly from the decline of timber-related industries in the northwest. We believe its designation as a viticultural area would encourage agricultural productivity, as well as lay the groundwork for increased tourism in future years. This could provide badly needed economic stimulation to this attractive rural community.

Our only concern about a viticultural area regarded possible effects the designation would have on National Forest lands in and adjacent to the area, or on activities occurring on those lands. In a phone conversation earlier today, Ms. Marforie Ruhf of your office assured us that a viticultural area designation would have no effects whatever on these lands or activities.

It is thus our pleasure to support Mr. Helsaple and the community of Seiad Valley as they seek designation of the "Seiad Valley Viticultural Area."

Sincerely,

Barbara Holder

BARBARA HOLDER
Forest Supervisor

cc: Mr. Brian Helsaple

January 26, 1994

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

Attn: Notice No. 787

The Northern Klamath River Chamber of Commerce wishes to support the establishment of Seiad Valley as a recognized vitacultural area. This designation by Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will officially acknowledge what a traveler on Highway 96 observes when entering Seiad Valley. Namely, a unique, small valley isolated from the rest of the state, including the nearest community of Hamburg some 15 miles distant, by steep forest covered mountains. From roads up the sides of these mountains it is even possible to see the vineyard.

Seiad Valley deserves its own Appellation.

Respectfully,

L. H. Osborne

Larry Osborne, President
Northern Klamath River Chamber of Commerce

(916) 842-2364

SCFB

Siskiyou County Farm Bureau
809 Fourth Street
Yreka, CA 96097

February 28, 1994

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

Attn: Notice No. 787

Re: Federal Register, Vol. 59, No. 7, January 11, 1994 - Seiad Valley Viticultural Area

The Siskiyou County Farm Bureau heartily endorses the petition to establish the Seiad Valley viticultural area in Siskiyou County.

According to "Gold Mining in Siskiyou County 1850-1900; Occassional Paper No. 2," written by Gary Stumpf and published by the Siskiyou County Historical Society in 1979, the original name for the area, "Sciad" is believed to be Yurok Indian for "far away land." This is a most apt description of this wonderfully unique area relative to the location of so many large viticultural areas of lower northern California.

Seiad Valley is the site of a moderate micro-climate surprisingly suited to the cultivation of wine grapes which has been created by the inter-play of river, orientation to sunlight and sheltering effect of high mountain ridges. It is truly ironic that the accumulation of cast off dredger tailings or "useless piles of rocks", a legacy of early gold miners in the area, now serve to retain the heat of sunlight, helping to warm the cold winter air and combat the erratic frosts that limit crop diversity elsewhere in the county.

The Siskiyou County Farm Bureau is encouraged with the demonstrated local success of the Seiad Valley Vineyards. We consider the Seiad Valley area as having the continued potential for production of a fine quality wine as special as the region where it is grown and well deserving of California's reputation for excellence in wines.

Sincerely,

Marcia H. Armstrong

Marcia H. Armstrong
Executive Director

SISKIYOU COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Shasta Valley Enterprise Zone

1512 SO. OREGON ST. - P.O. BOX 867 - YREKA, CA 96097
Telephone (916) 842-1638
FAX (916) 842-2685

March 2, 1994

Mr. Thomas Busey
Chief of Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol,, Tobacco, and Firearms
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221
Attn: Notice No. 787

Dear Mr. Busey,

I am writing on behalf of the Siskiyou County Economic Development Council in support of a vitacultural area designation for Seiad Valley (Siskiyou County), California.

Designation of such an area for this region of our county, whose economic base has been devastated by court-mandated timber and mining reductions, will provide an opportunity for a revitalized economic diversification of the area's economy, and will (in time) provide new employment opportunities which are currently not available.

Vitaculture appears to be an appropriate and sustainable economic alternative for this area of our county, and will provide Siead and the surrounding areas with a new economic resource and future employment possibilities.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this matter, and should you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

James E. Kimbrell
Executive Director

cc: Brian Halsaple
P.O. Box 521
Seiad Valley, CA. 96086

Siskiyou County
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
P.O. BOX 338
TELEPHONE: (916) 842-8080

SUPERVISOR GEORGE R. THACKERAY — District 5
1900 NORTH HIGHWAY 3 ETNA, CA 96027
RES. PHONE (916) 467-3775

County of Siskiyou
COURTHOUSE
YREKA, CALIFORNIA
96097

March 2, 1994

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

Attn: Notice No. 787

Dear Mr. Busey:

For the past several years I have had the pleasure of being acquainted with Brian J. Helsaple from Seiad Valley, California. He is one of those rare individuals who sees an opportunity for economic development in an area that is depressed in our county.

You no doubt are aware with the spotted owl issues which the National Forest and Siskiyou County face the timber industry is at an all time low, and we need to diversify into other areas to keep our economy strong.

After personally viewing the grape growing enterprise on old dredger tailings in Seiad Valley, it certainly lends itself to greater production. I see an opportunity for many individuals to take advantage of grape-growing in that region of our county, as there seems to be very little care required for production once the grape vines are established.

Mr. Helsaple has indicated a strong interest in obtaining designation of Seiad Valley as a viticultural area for grape-growing. His enterprise has been visited by a representative of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms from Sacramento who has clearly expressed the difference and uniqueness of the area.

I whole heartedly support Mr. Helsaple in his venture to have Seiad Valley declared a viticultural area. Any help you can provide to further this venture will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George R. Thackeray

George R.Thackeray
Supervisor
District 5

GRT:sb

cc: Brian Helsaple