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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 2, 2002

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS
AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA

BT
12/14/02

Chief, Regulations Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091-0221

ATTN: Notice No. 957

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to voice my support for the petition from Ms. Beverly Stamp of Lakewood Vineyards in Watkins Glen, New York proposing to establish the Seneca Lake viticultural area.

Having served since 1987 as the Representative of New York's 31st Congressional District, which covers parts of 10 counties from Lake Erie, along the Pennsylvania border to the Finger Lakes, I have become very familiar with the Seneca Lake area. It is the largest, most diverse community of wine producers in the Eastern United States. The twenty-one wineries along the shores of Seneca Lake offer individual and unique expressions from one of America's finest wine districts.

Carved by glaciers, and surrounded by vinyards since the mid 1800s – a Seneca Lake viticultural area has already been created through geologic and human history. This unique area's recognition by the ATF would perfectly complement an existing regional framework of tourism, research and economic development, and promotion of the Seneca Lake identity and all that it represents. This would be of great benefit to consumers who seek products that allow them capture, in a bottle, the essence of places and regions that enthrall them.

Many thanks for your time.

Sincerely,


Amo Houghton