

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 16, 2000

Mr. Bradley A. Buckles
Director
Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms
650 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Room 8150
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Mr. Buckles:

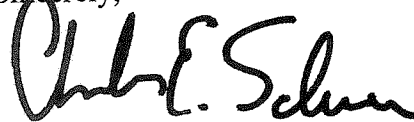
I am writing to lend my support to the application submitted by winemakers from Nassau and Suffolk Counties in New York for an American Viticultural Area ("AVA") designated "Long Island." No other region in the Eastern United States has the quality of soil, length of growing season, moderate winter temperatures, and necessary amount of natural precipitation as Long Island. Long Island is widely recognized as one of the world's finest wine regions. Its name deserves the protection AVA designation provides from marketing fraud.

In little over a quarter century, Long Island's wine industry has grown to a multimillion dollar business as well as an engine of local economic growth. With countless positive reviews of Long Island wines found in every major food and wine publication, it is clear that Long Island is one of the nation's most exciting new wine growing regions. Thanks to the time, effort, and capital invested by the Long Island wine industry, Long Island is now the producer of some of the nation's finest wines.

An AVA designation assures consumers that the Long Island wine they purchase and drink genuinely comes from Long Island, as well as recognizing and publicizing Long Island's distinct climate and soil. By protecting Long Island wines from marketing fraud, AVA designation also helps bolsters the local economy and preserve local farmland.

I hope you will give the Long Island application the highest priority and approve it soon. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information in support of the application.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

November 17, 2000

Chief
Regulations Division
BATF
650 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to comment on the petition before you to establish a "Long Island" American Viticultural Area.

First, we qualify. Long Island is a delimited, grape-growing region distinguishable by geographical features. Long Island has clear climatic and soil differences from other regions.

Second, as a consumer, I believe this new area designation is important. In addition to the appellations "North Fork of Long Island," and "The Hamptons, Long Island" consumers will have further label data indicating that the wine in the bottle is, in fact, from Long Island.

The proposed Long Island Appellation would not affect these AVAs, already in use on the East End. It will, in fact, provide local wine producers another option for labeling their products, as well as added protection against possible consumer fraud.

The Long Island name has grown in stature and recognition nationwide. As consumers, it is shocking that we can buy a wine called "Long Islandsomething" and have the wine in the bottle not from Long Island grapes. Further, consumers think that any bottle sold on Long Island is from grapes of the region. They are shocked to find out otherwise. It is time for us to have "truth in advertising" with regard to wine labeling. With an approved Long Island AVA in place, the words "Long Island" could only be used to label wines which contain at least 85% Long Island grown grapes. This would immeasurably help the consumer.

I agree with Ms. Meredith who has said: Serious wine regions require serious self-regulation. The wine industry is one of the most wonderful things about Long Island. We need to protect it and preserve open space – the AVA is insurance for our future.

This new appellations of origin in wine labeling and advertising help consumers better identify the wines they may purchase, and helps winemakers distinguish their products from wines made in other areas.

I urge you to approve this measure.

Sincerely,


Mary C. Foster

PHILIP F. PALMEDO
[REDACTED] St. James, NY 11780
[REDACTED]

November 10, 2000

Chief, Regulations Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
650 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20226

RE: Long Island AVA

Dear Sir/Madam

I was pleased to hear that you have under consideration a petition to establish a Long Island American Viticultural Area. I would like to encourage you to approve its establishment.

I have followed the development of the Long Island Wine Region since its beginning and am a co-author of *The Wines of Long Island*, now in its second edition (published by Amereon House). The separate geographical identity of the Nassau/Suffolk County region is evident from a glance at a map of Long Island. Less evident is the fact that the eastern part of Long Island, consisting of two terminal morains created in the last pleistocene glaciation, has a soil geology distinct from the surrounding mainland.

One can make a strong case for Long Island being the most important wine region in the eastern United States. It has become so in part because of its highly favorable soils and climate, but also because of the philosophy and approach of its winery owners and winemakers. From the beginning, they have sought to make high quality wines that express their unique local conditions. This has included the gradual process of selecting grape varieties and clonal forms that respond best to local conditions of soil and climate. They have succeeded admirably in that philosophy and approach and, as a result, there has evolved a distinct Long Island style. This phenomenon and the wines that have resulted from it deserve the distinction and protection afforded by the AVA designation.

I believe the region deserves, and the American wine consumer will benefit from the designation of a Long Island American Viticultural Area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

PHILIP F. PALMEDO
[REDACTED]

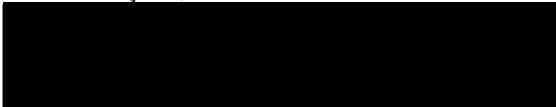
Martha Clara[™]
VINEYARDS

November 10, 2000

Chief, Regulations Division
BATF
650 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D. C. 20226

Dear Sir:

We at Martha Clara Vineyards firmly support the "Long Island" AVA. A 75% rule such as Senate Bill 1293 recently adopted in Napa will protect Long Island grape growers and wineries and preserve the integrity of the industry.



Robert Entenmann
President

November 8, 2000

Dear Sirs,

In order to maintain a high standard of Long Island wine, it is imperative that an American Viticulture Area "Long Island" is established. As a resident of the "North Fork" (AVA), wine educator, and employee in the wine industry, I have watched the area grow into a wine and grape growing area for the last 27 years. There are a few in this area who have taken advantage of the inexpensive fruit on the market, and using the term "Long Island", sell out of area wine products of lesser quality. We wish to correct this problem.

The majority of the wineries and vineyards on Long Island are interested in producing a high quality product, and protecting our Long Island name. Please approve the American Viticulture Area "Long Island" to help us protect our reputation for quality and outstanding wines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane Utz

Southold, NY 11971

11/12/00



JOHN J. FLANAGAN
Assemblyman 9th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

AD (AOT)
1/2/01
Rays Div. 12/1/461
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Ways and Means

RECEIVED

2000 DEC 27 P 3:43

DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF
ALCOHOL, TOBACCO &
FIREARMS

December 20, 2000

Mr. Bradley Buckles
Director, Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
650 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Room 8000
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Director Buckles:

We write as members of a united delegation in support of our Long Island wineries and wine makers. The purpose of our letter is to respectfully request that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms designate Long Island as an "American Viticultural Area."

The Long Island wine industry is a vital part of our region's thriving economy, not only does it produce excellent wines for all to enjoy, but the industry also has a substantial direct impact on our economy. With over 3,000 acres of vineyards, our twenty wineries (and growing) produce more than 5,000 tons of grapes and more than 450,000 cases of wine annually. Our wineries employ nearly 4,000 Long Islanders, generate more than \$5 million in wine sales and provide \$3.5 million in annual sales tax revenue.

Your requirement that wineries prove that a minimum of 85 percent of their wine product was created from grapes grown exclusively within a designated region is a good one and one that we support.

Our Long Island wineries can meet this requirement and it clearly helps them. That requirement along with a designation would enable Long Island wineries to protect the integrity and quality of the product produced in our region. The designation of Long Island as an American Viticultural Area will underscore the significance of an excellent product and prevent the Long Island name from being improperly used or abused

This request is similar to and parallels recent efforts undertaken by areas such as Delta County, Colorado, to establish a viticultural area known as West Elks. We believe Long Island wine makers deserve the same opportunity to protect, preserve and safeguard both their product and their reputation. As such, we support and applaud United States Senator Charles Schumer's efforts to obtain this designation for Long Island wine makers.



We appreciate your positive consideration of this request and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions regarding our petition for Long Island wineries to be designated as an American Viticultural Area, please contact Assemblywoman Patricia Acampora at (631) 727-1363.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Acampora
Patricia Acampora
Member of Assembly
1st District

Fred Thiele, Jr.
Fred W. Thiele Jr.
Member of Assembly
2nd District

Robert C. Wertz
Robert C. Wertz
Member of Assembly
6th District

Thomas F. Barraga
Thomas F. Barraga
Member of Assembly
7th District

Philip M. Boyle
Philip M. Boyle
Member of Assembly
8th District

John J. Flanagan
John J. Flanagan
Member of Assembly
9th District

James D. Conte
James D. Conte
Member of Assembly
10th District

Steven L. Labriola
Steven L. Labriola
Member of Assembly
12th District

Marc Herbst
Marc Herbst
Member of Assembly
14th District

Donna Ferrara
Donna Ferrara
Member of Assembly
15th District

Maureen C. O'Connell
Maureen O'Connell
Member of Assembly
17th District

Kathleen Murray
Kathleen Murray
Member of Assembly
19th District

James Darcy
James Darcy
Member of Assembly
21st District

Thomas W. Alfano
Thomas Alfano
Member of Assembly
22nd District



January 5, 2001

Chief, Regulations Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
650 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20226
For attention: Richard Moscolo

LC
1/9/01

Dear Sir,

REF: APPLICATION FOR LONG ISLAND AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREA

The Long Island Wine Council, an industry association representing eighteen Long Island wineries, confirms its support for the Long Island American Viticultural Area application.

Long Island is making a name for itself as an important producer of quality wines. As the industry develops, it will be essential to protect the integrity of the wines emanating from this region. The addition of a Long Island appellation to the two existing appellations, The North Fork of Long Island and The Hamptons, will go a long way to ensuring this protection.

If you require any further clarification from our Members, please contact me at (631) 765-9528 or e-mail: info@liwines.com.

Yours truly,

[Redacted signature]

Jane Baxter Lynn
Executive Director

CC: Pat Acampora, Assemblywoman, 1st District
Kip Bedell, LIWC Treasurer
Karen Meredith, Broadfields
Rich Olsen-Harbich, Raphael
Senator Charles Schumer
Harold Watts, LIWC President