

-----Original Message-----

From: OregonRE@ [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, July 05, 2003 1:19 AM

To: NPRM@ttb.gov

Subject: McMinnville Area

I do not believe there should be a limit on elevation, if a vineyard is within the approved area it should be allowed to use the designation. If you need further comment, please phone me at [REDACTED].

If a parcel is within the geographical area, it should be in !

Linda Lindsay

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MYSTIC MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS, INC.

P.O. BOX 1232
22470 SW BENNETTE ROAD
McMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128
503-434-9025
FAX 474-9463

July 29, 2003

Chief, Regulations And Procedures Division,
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20226

Via fax: 202-927-8525

Re: Proposed McMinnville Viticultural Area (2002R-217P) Notice No. 12

Gentlemen:

My wife and I own a vineyard within the proposed viticulture boundaries as described in the above referenced notice. This vineyard was planted in the mid 1980's, and has produced a viable crop for many years. The original owner sold his grapes every year to a local winery for blending into that winery's product.

My wife and I purchased this vineyard in 1997, and have continued to have successful harvests every year. We have also expanded the vineyard to include a clone of pinot noir that will ripen earlier than others. Last year was the first year we had enough pinot grapes to harvest, and we have a delicious wine ageing in our barrels at this time.

Our elevation is 1200 feet above sea level.

I have records going back to 1999 that show that our degree-days are sufficient to ripen our yearly crop. While it is true that our daily high temperatures may be less than those at a lower elevation, our nighttime temperatures are usually higher than those lower elevations during the growing season.

Degree-days are calculated on a twenty-four hour day basis, so a higher nighttime temperature leads

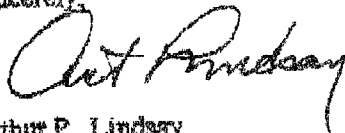
itself to a higher degree-day calculation. Our daily mean temperature can be as high as lower elevations because of this reason.

My wife and I are also the owners of Stone Wolf Vineyards, with a vineyard in the Eola Hills region and a winery in McMinnville. We are quite experienced in what it takes to successfully grow good grapes and produce a quality wine. We have invested heavily in land and the development of vineyards in both areas (Eola Hills and McMinnville) and do not think it fair or reasonable for someone to suddenly decide that we are not viable growers/producers just because of our altitude. If a winery cannot grow good grapes and produce a great wine, the laws of economics tells me that they will not have a successful operation for long, regardless of elevation.

We are quite aware of the benefit of the proposed viticultural area, and have urged the McMinnville city leaders to take advantage of the boom in wineries in the area to boost tourism. However, we feel that to limit the area to specific altitudes is to limit the number of quality producers that have strived to grow and produce wines of distinction. We strongly protest the proposal as written if it continues to have specific restrictions on altitude.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Arthur P. Lindsay
President
Mystic Mountain Vineyards
Stone Wolf Vineyards

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From: Kevin Byrd [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2003 12:02 PM
To: nprm@atf.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 12'

name=Kevin Byrd
name=Youngberg Hill Vineyards
Address1=[REDACTED]
Address2=[REDACTED]
City=McMinnville
State=OR
Zip Code=97128
Comments=Re: Proposed McMinnville AVA (2002R-217P Notice 12)

As petitioner for this proposed AVA, I have researched information provided by Mr. Art Lindsay of Mystic Mountain Vineyards with respect to the exclusion of any sites higher than 800'.

Based on my investigation, it is clear that Mr. Lindsay's data is correct. Within the proposed boundaries of the AVA, higher elevation sites do report lower day time temperatures but substantially higher night time temperatures. As a result, growing degree days calculated for the 24 hour period are comparable to sites at lower elevations. As well, one must give weight to the significant history of quality grape growing that Mr. Lindsay's vineyard has shown.

As a result of this information, the petitioner would request that the the 800' elevation exclusion be eliminated from the proposed boundary criteria (except where it defines the outside most boundary of the AVA).

If there are any questions regarding this comment, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Byrd
Youngberg Hill Vineyards
McMinnville, OR