

WEBB FRANKLIN
2ND DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT
MARINE AND FISHERIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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January 11, 1984

Mr. Richard Mascolo
Chief, FAA
Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco
and Firearms
P.O. Box 385
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

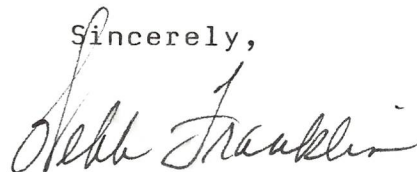
Dear Mr. Mascolo:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on Notice No. 497, published in the December 23, 1983, Federal Register concerning the establishment of a Mississippi Delta Viticultural Area.

It is my understanding that the establishment of an appellation of origin status for the Mississippi Delta region would be of benefit both to consumers and growers. Mississippi has a rapidly growing new viticultural industry. The State of Mississippi has supported this new agricultural industry by building one of the finest enology teaching and research facilities in the U.S. at Mississippi State University. In addition, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station has established research vineyards at four of its branch experiment stations. It is obvious that the reestablishment of the Mississippi Delta as an American viticultural area has broad support in the state from growers, research scientists and educators. The granting of an appellation of origin would serve to augment this broad support and the growth of a new agricultural industry in Mississippi.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Sincerely,



WEBB FRANKLIN
Member of Congress

WF/bc

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



P. O. Box 5386
MISSISSIPPI STATE, MISSISSIPPI 39762

February 3, 1984

Chief, FAA
Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco
and Firearms
P. O. Box 385
Washington, D. C. 20044-0385

Dear Sir:

I am writing in behalf of BATF Notice No. 497, published in the Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 248, Friday, December 23, 1983, pages 56799-56801, in regard to the Mississippi Delta as an American Viticulture Area.

The establishment of this area will provide additional incentive in the farming sector of the area to expand the acreage of the already flourishing grape and wine agricultural enterprise. The approval of this area as an appellation of origin will be extremely important both to the producer and the consumer for promoting the farm-operated wine industry in the State and contribute to the overall economy of the State, particularly at the time when each dollar gained and retained in the State counts. It will also make Mississippi State University's efforts and investment in grape and wine research, teaching and extension grow and produce dividends for the taxpayer of Mississippi and the nation.

I hope this request will be granted.

Very truly yours,

Louis N. Wise
Vice President

LNW:bn

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS • AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

A. B. McKay Food and Enology Laboratory
P. O. Drawer NH
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762
Phone (601) 325-3200

February 3, 1984

Chief, FAA
Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco
and Firearms
P. O. Box 385
Washington, DC 20044-0385

Gentlemen:

I would like to comment on the Notice No. 497, which appeared in the Federal Register, Volume 4, No. 248, December 1983.

I hope that this request will be granted for the following reasons:

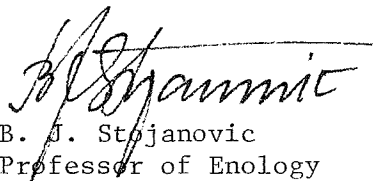
1. Mississippi Delta is a very well known area for its highly productive soils and very intensive cropping.
2. While traditionally it was not a grape growing area on a commercial scale, presently grapes are being planted at an ever increasing rate with an estimated acreage of approximately 400 acres.
3. Its natural layout with the Mississippi River gently meandering through the countryside, which provides an almost inexhaustible supply of water for irrigation, and rich soils, it promises to be the grape growing area of the Southeast if not in the entire region east of the Rocky Mountains.
4. This area is also blessed with ample labor and capital and is able to nurture an infant grape and wine agricultural enterprise and bring it to the full-fledged industry.
5. New muscadine and bunch grape cultivars which were developed recently by grape breeders and grape geneticists with the agricultural experiment stations of the Southeast show that they are not only resistant to many diseases, including the infamous Pierce's disease, but that they are also very productive yielding high quality fruit.
6. Last but not least, the Mississippi State University through its Viticulture and Enology program has committed substantial

technical personnel and facilities to assist the budding industry in any way possible. Maintaining extensive research vineyards in the heart of Delta attest to the level of this commitment.

7. Even though the new industry is basically small farm oriented, it is already beginning to make a positive impact on the economy of the state.

I sincerely hope that Mississippi Delta will be approved as Viticultural Area, which in turn will provide to be used as an appellation of origin on wine labels and wine advertisements. This will certainly boost the enthusiasm of the growers and wine producers and help them promote this fast growing agricultural enterprise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. J. Stojanovic".

B. J. Stojanovic
Professor of Enology
and Head of Laboratory

BJS:rwj

cc: Vice-President L. N. Wise
Director R. R. Foil
Associate Director A. D. Seale

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 6, 1984

Mr. Richard Mascolo
Chief, FAA
Wine and Beer Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and
Firearms
P.O. Box 385
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

Dear Mr. Mascolo:

I am writing in support of a petition filed by Mr. Sam Rushing seeking designation of the Mississippi Delta as an American viticultural area.

As you are aware, Mr. Rushing is a grape grower at Merigold, Mississippi and produces and bottles wine at his winery, The Winery Rushing. Mr. Rushing has been growing grapes since 1977 and has contributed greatly to the development of a grape and wine industry in the state.

The designation of the Mississippi Delta as a viticultural area is vital to the continued growth of this industry. Such a designation permits its use as an appellation of origin on wine labels and advertisements and the use of the term "estate-bottled."

As Mr. Rushing has demonstrated in his petition, the Mississippi Delta is a delimited grape-growing region. His petition clearly describes the area's distinguishable geographical features which cover an area 6,000 square miles in northwestern Mississippi, including small sections in Louisiana and Tennessee. The Mississippi Delta has been a productive agricultural area for many years, and while less a grape-growing region, it possesses the climate and sandy loam soil characteristic of a natural grape-growing region. Hundreds of acres of vineyards have now been planted, and two euvitis and one muscadinia grape species are native to the area.

Interest in the development of the state's newest industry continues to grow. Mississippi State University has invested millions of dollars in its Enology Laboratory which is engaged in grape research in fertilization, weed, insect, and disease control. Staff are currently engaged in cooperative studies with scientists at the University of California-Davis testing for resistance to Pierce's Disease. The University maintains several laboratory sites in the state, one of which is located at Stoneville in the Delta region.

Mr. Richard Mascolo
February 6, 1984
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Mississippi is a highly productive agricultural state, and while its grape and wine industry is young and small, it is growing. Designation of the Mississippi Delta as a viticultural area would lend status and prestige to the wines produced there.

I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Rushing's efforts and request your careful consideration and approval of his petition.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thad Cochran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator

TC/jw