



April 10, 2019

Members and Friends of the Commercial Texas Wine and Grape Industry

For the last several years, there has been discussion regarding wine with the word "Texas" on the front label.

Currently, if a bottle of wine recognizes a state on the front label, the federal government requires at least 75% of the grapes used to make that wine be grown in that state. This allows winemakers to compensate for crop variations from year to year.

Texas Representative John Keumpel has filed a bill (HB 4233) that would remove this right for winemakers.

In response to consumer demand, there are now over 500 wineries in the state of Texas, a small number of which are attempting to bring additional constraints on the industry by legislating more strict labeling regulations.

The suggested change is opposed by most in the industry and is believed to be unnecessary and potentially harmful due to a lack of research on the impact of such legislation. The board of directors of the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association has voted to oppose HB 4233 as it will hinder the growth and economic viability of the Texas wine and grape industry.

Before noon on Wednesday, April 10, please call the Texas capitol office of Representative Keumpel at (512) 463-0602. Let him know you want to continue fostering the growth of the Texas wine and grape industry and that HB 4233 should not move forward.

Also please call the Texas capitol office of Texas Representative Tracy King (Chairman of Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee) at (512) 463-0194. Let Representative King know you want to continue fostering the growth of the Texas wine and grape industry and that HB 4233 should not be heard in committee.

Your consideration of this issue is most appreciated. Please direct questions to Dakota Haselwood, executive director, Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association at dacota@twgga.org.

Members of the media should contact Amanda Sprague at amanda@cultivatepr.com.