



April 12, 2019

Members and Friends of the Commercial Texas Wine and Grape Industry

As you know, Texas Representative John Keumpel has filed HB 4233 on behalf of a small group of special-interest wineries. This bill would make wine labeling laws in Texas more stringent than the federal government currently requires. The bill was referred to the Texas House of Representatives Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee, chaired by Texas Representative Tracy King.

Chairman King and Representative Keumpel are anxious to hear your testimony and have scheduled HB 4233 for public hearing on **Tuesday, April 16 at 8 a.m.** in the Texas State Capitol – room E2.028. **Please plan to attend the committee hearing and testify.**

TWGGA lobbyist, Kyle Frazier, will be available to help coordinate witnesses and witness registration onsite. Text Kyle at (512) 217-1854 if you need assistance and cannot locate him. **Be prepared for this meeting to last all day and possibly into the evening.**

Because there is no credible research forecasting the outcomes of the implementation of the HB 4233, the board of directors of the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association has voted to oppose HB 4233. Additionally, there is a majority consensus amongst board members that a change to the current regulatory system may upset the exponential growth of the industry seen in the recent past.

In preparation for the committee hearing, please call the following committee member offices on Friday, April 11 and ask them to oppose HB 4233 when it comes up in the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee on Tuesday, April 16:

Vice Chairman Craig Goldman	Fort Worth	(512) 463-0608
Representative Ryan Guillen	Rio Grande City	(512) 463-0416
Representative Sam Harless	Spring	(512) 463-0496
Representative Anna Hernandez	Jacinto City	(512) 463-0614
Representative Abel Herrero	Corpus Christi	(512) 463-0462

Your consideration of this issue is most appreciated. Please direct questions to Dacota 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.