

Director, Regulation and Rulings Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
Attn: Notice No. 68
P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044-4412

Dec 2 2006

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in favor of the Tulocay American Viticulture Area. I moved to this area in 1971 to a 5 acre property along Tulocay creek adjacent to the then recently planted Haynes vineyard mentioned in the application. As noted this was about the only vineyard in this area. Since then vineyards have been established all around me. In 1996 I planted a 2 1/2 acre pinot noir vineyard in my back pasture. I planted it in conjunction with Ken Bernards of Ancien wines who is a dedicated pinot noir maker. He was very interested in planting pinot noir in what he felt was the unique terroir of this area. Since then the Ancien Mink Vineyard Napa Valley pinot noir has gone to the White house and been served at the French Laundry, the premier restaurant in the Napa valley. Ken Bernards also makes pinot noir from small properties in Carneros, Sonoma Mountain and Russian River areas, which are all excellent, but different from my wine. Those areas are known for pinot noir. However my label is under the Napa Valley designation that is more noted for its cabernet sauvignon grown in the warmer type 111 viticulture areas and felt to be too warm for quality pinot noirs. So approval of the Tulocay AVA designation would help to differentiate us from those areas and recognize the unique qualities of the Tulocay AVA.

Sincerely,



William Mink
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