

May 26, 2005

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
Attn: Notice No. 39
P.O. Box 14412
Washington, D.C. 20044

RE: Notice No. 39 Denial of Proposed Shawnee Hills AVA

Dear Sir or Madame:

My family and I are long time residents of the southernmost part of the State of Illinois. This is a region that is known for poorer than average soils for its orchards and, more recently its vineyards. I have reviewed the detailed, however, inaccurate information that has been published in Notice No. 39. The information concerning Notice No. 39 excludes almost 75% of Pulaski and approximately half of Alexander and Massac Counties from the proposed Shawnee Hills ,VA.

I am incensed that individuals are using a federal mechanism to justify future marginalization of prospective grape growers in our region and yet another attempted to deny African American farmers legitimate: access into the economic development of Southern Illinois. The hilly areas of Pulaski and Alexander Counties that lie between the southern boundary of the proposed Shawnee Hills AVA and the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers have several grape growers. I anticipate planting grapes on my property as well. There are several hills and well drained areas that have been excluded in this region. Therefore, when the State of Illinois makes its economic or technical assistance available to vineyards, we trust that we will not be excluded from these programs as well.

There are several grape growers in the area, which validates the rejection of this proposal. Among them are my neighbors, Old Feather Trail Vineyard and Shawnee Community College Vineyard. Shawnee Community College Vineyard is located on a beautiful hill top where the Ohio River is in the distance. The hills are sometimes close to delta grounds used for row crops. However, there are hundreds of acres that are suitable for grapes.

My family has lived in this area for over sixty years, and to have an individual, Dr. Dami, who does not live in Illinois draw an arbitrary boundary is outrageous.

Please deny this proposal in its current form. The people of Massac, Alexander, and Pulaski Counties are supportive of constructive economic development proposals, but we are not in favor of divisive tactics and procedures.

Sincerely,

Gloria Pounds
PD. Box 73
Olmsted, IL 62970