
VOFP

Village of Pulaski

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June 5, 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. Petition for Establishment of Shawnee Hills AVA

Dear Sir,

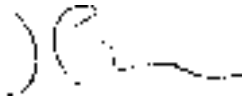
I have reviewed with a mixture of interest and dismay Notice No 39 published in the Federal Registry detailing the basis for the establishment of the Shawnee Hills American Viticultural Area. As Mayor for the City of Pulaski, Illinois, a small rural community located along U.S. Route 51, I am supportive of initiatives that contribute to the improvement of the region's image and overall economic opportunity. I would much rather be in the position of writing a letter of support, but I instead must write to you to express my opposition with the way the boundaries for the Shawnee Hills AVA have been drawn; leaving out the area that surrounds our City as well as many beautiful hills in Pulaski County.

Although personally not a grape grower, I know grape growers in this area that are being excluded under the false premise that the climate, soils, and topography differ in any significant way from those found a short distance to the north. Illinois is a flat state and the only differences in climate are those imposed by its latitude, and although there are some low lands near the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, there are also swamps and wetlands that are included in the Shawnee Hills AVA petition, I do not think that anybody expects vineyards nor orchards to be planted in any of those lands anytime soon, but if somebody should, it should be left to the forces of the market to determine the price of substandard fruit. The current AVA petition, simply assumes that ALL the surrounding hills are also substandard for grapes while including other low lands like the Cache River Basin, the Cypress creek and areas around the Crab Orchard Lake.

Might I point out that in the early 1900's southern Illinois was a leader in grape production, with Pulaski County leading all other counties in tons of grapes produced, and yet the boundaries as proposed by the Shawnee AVA preclude most of Pulaski County. My county needs to seize every potential opportunity to grow economically.

I request that the proposed Shawnee Hills AVA be amended to include the hills of our surrounding communities along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. I see no reason why the major rivers should not be the boundaries, since they are the current boundaries of the neighboring AVA's long established in Missouri and Kentucky. Not including the areas in between the southern boundaries of the proposed AVA and the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers would create a 'no-grape zone' or island, that would impact negatively and imposed further economic hardship to the landowners of our region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rogan Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dean L Rogan Sr., RPh

Mayor of Pulaski, Illinois