

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. Rejection of Proposal for Shawnee Hills AVA

Dear Sir(s):

I am a grape grower in the **area of** Carrier Mills of southern Illinois, located approximately three (3) miles north of the Saline Creek. The Saline Creek is the closest northern boundary of the proposed Shawnee Hills AVA. I started a vineyard in 2001 after taking a course: VIN 111 – Vineyard Establishment and Maintenance, offered by Shawnee Community College. They trained me well, and to my knowledge it is the only college that teaches grape growing in the state.

I have lived all my life in this area, and as I student I traveled to the Demonstration Vineyard at Shawnee College to complete the hands-on (practicum) part of the course. Now I am to understand that both, my vineyard and the vineyard in which I trained, are lesser and somewhat excluded from the proposed AVA. Now, any country folk around here can tell you that that has to be the most outlandish proposal. There must be some money in the middle.

I started my vineyard looking to invest in something that would serve me in my retirement years. The state has shown some interest in providing some financial support the way it was done in Kentucky and Missouri. Now I understand that some of that money was used to produce this controversial AVA Proposal, and highly likely in the future I will hear that the location of my vineyard does not justify any state support. I suppose the word will get to the banking establishment too. Strike another one against African-American farmers.

Gentlemen, there is absolutely no climate, soils, drainage or growing degree days difference between here (Saline County), Shawnee College (Pulaski County) or any of the counties in between. Every year, the trees bud and turn at the same time, the farmers plant and harvest at the same time, the rivers are all high or low: at the same time.

In its current form the Shawnee Hills AVA is unacceptable. The correct boundary is Interstate **1-64** which crosses the state from east to west as it crosses Illinois from the Wabash to the Mississippi River. The remaining boundaries of the state of Illinois are

the most **proper** boundaries, that is the Ohio River to the east and the Mississippi River to the west.

Please amend this proposal or send it back to its authors for further study and/or closer cooperation with the growers. I have taken the liberty to consult with other interested parties in **this area** and attach the signatures of **those that support the views expressed** in this letter.

Sincerely,

W. Harry Rollins
P.O Box 216
Carrier Mills, IL 62917
Email: harryrollins55@yahoo.com

ATTACHMENTS (PETITIONS WITH 84 SIGNATURES)

MAY BE VIEWED, BY APPOINTMENT, IN THE TTB READING ROOM