

June 25, 2018

Leah M Clark
Trade Specialist
Market Development Division
Idaho Department of Agriculture
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
P.O. Box 790
Boise, ID 83701

Dear Ms. Clark,

We are asking you to carefully reconsider any proposed changes to the Idaho Preferred designation of wine grape percentages for inclusion as an Idaho Preferred product. The change from 95% to 75% constitutes lowering a bar that need not be lowered.

We have gathered a few signatures from people who have two things in common. We are all recent transplants from other states and we recognize that Idaho is producing wines that rival those of widely-recognized wine producing states, be they California, Oregon or Washington.

We, as a group, are fairly "wine savvy" and come from areas where wine production and sales have flourished through long-range vision and committed individuals. We are thrilled that Idaho's wine industry has come of age, and empirical evidence tells us that Idaho need not take a back seat to wine producers in places from which we have moved.

We are part of an emerging wine community in the vicinity of Eagle, Idaho, and are encouraged as we see more and more vines populating our foothills in a newly formed American Viticulture Area (AVA). And we want to be the ones to keep the bar high, something for which others can reach.

Idaho Preferred is a special designation that need not lower its standards. There are those who will strive to meet such standards as they currently exist.

Sincerely,

K. Elwer Gerry Banda Nancy Elwer
Deanna Tsunoda Deb & Barry Hatfield
Jill Matthews
Jim & Nancy Sweet
Amy Wood
Linda Phillips
Ernie Phillips