

Finley Bend
Vineyard

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Finley Bend Vineyard
Date: April 8, 2019
Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 111-4

I am writing to you today in strong opposition of Senate Bill 111. I am an Oregon farmer with property in the Grants Pass area with 140 acres of which 113 acres are dedicated to growing wine grapes. If SB 111-4 is passed it will have long term negative consequences on Oregon grape growers and therefore the entire Oregon wine industry as a whole. We have been growing significantly as an industry in Oregon over the last several years and SB 111 would be especially disastrous to the growers of our industry. This Senate Bill 111-4 is being created in retaliation. It is really just putting a huge divide in our industry here in Oregon, which is really sad. Senate Bill 111 is not good for the wine industry and a large number of growers and wineries have come forward from the biggest AVA's in the State to express their concerns and oppositions to SB111-4. Any time the process is harder for someone to purchase your goods it is really scary, it's your livelihood. So is Senate Bill 111-4 really for the consumer to understand where the wine is being made? Because it currently states where the wine is vintified on the back of the bottle if a consumer cares to know. Or is it to eliminate the competition of another winery?

Being a farmer is hard enough with things arising out of our control, such as frost or smoke taint. We can not afford to have a smaller pool of buyers if SB 111-4 is passed. This Senate Bill is over reaching, not needed and harmful for grape growers. The current TTB labeling regulations are more than adequate for the consumer to understand what wine they are purchasing, where the fruit was grown, harvested and vintified. It seems to send a message that the fruit that we work so hard to grow is of less importance once it crosses state lines to be made into wine. The other very harmful consequence of this bill is if the out of state buyers decide to cease purchasing Oregon fruit then all of that revenue that was brought to our state is now cut off. In no way do I see this helpful to the State of Oregon or the grape growers.

Thank you,

Brian Shuster

