

October 24, 2007

Honorable Governor James Doyle
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

****HAND DELIVERED****

Dear Governor Doyle:

We are writing to respectfully request that you veto several sections in Senate Bill 40-CSA 1 in regards to wineries. These Sections include: 2759e, f, h, k, kg, kh, ki, km, q-w, and parts of Sections 2759n and o. Our districts have several successful wineries that attract tourists year round and provide a consistent source of economic growth to our regions of the state. The winery industry in Wisconsin is small, but growing and flourishing. If these sections are not vetoed, the industry faces a very uncertain future.

The provisions we respectfully request stricken will remove the ability of Wisconsin wineries to receive liquor (defined as alcohol other than beer) from other manufacturers and out-of-state producers. According to our wineries, they import bulk wine from other states and use this in the production of blended wines. Under this provision, only manufacturers will be allowed to import wine, and wineries are prohibited from being defined as manufacturers. In addition, this provision will not allow Wisconsin wineries to sell directly to retailers, and our wineries will be mandated to go through a distributor. This will devastate the small wineries that are struggling to get established as what little margin they achieve will now be utilized to pay for distribution. This is of course providing that the distributors would even bother to distribute for the small wineries, which is unlikely. In that event, the small wineries would be unable to sell their product. As a result, Wisconsin consumers will be unable to buy Wisconsin wine and forced to pay higher prices for wines that are still available.

There is no question that these wineries will be severely devastated if this provision is allowed to become law. According to representatives of the industry, this budget provision is likely to force 1/3 of Wisconsin's wineries out of business, and the loss of tourism dollars and economic revenue will be felt throughout Wisconsin. We need your assistance to protect this valuable resource and ensure that Wisconsin wineries continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration. The future of Wisconsin's wine industry is at stake and we look forward to your concurrence.

Sincerely,

GAREY D. BIES
State Representative
1st Assembly District

SAMANTHA KERKMAN
State Representative
66th Assembly District

ALAN J. LASEE
State Senator
1st Senate District

ROBIN VOS
State Representative
63rd Assembly District

STEVE HILGENBERG
State Representative
51st Assembly District

DAN KAPANKE
State Senator
32nd Senate District

PHIL GARTHWAITE
State Representative
49th Assembly District

DON PRIDEMORE
State Representative
99th Assembly District

PAT KREITLOW
State Senator
23rd Senate District

DONNA SEIDEL
State Representative
85th Assembly District

DON FRISKE
State Representative
35th Assembly District

NEAL KEDZIE
State Senator
11th Senate District

STEVE NASS
State Representative
31st Assembly District

LEE NERISON
State Representative
96th Assembly District

ROB COWLES
State Senator
2nd Senate District

BRETT DAVIS
State Representative
80th Assembly District

MARK GOTTLIEB
State Representative
60th Assembly District

GLENN GROTHMAN
State Senator
20th Senate District

JERRY PETROWSKI
State Representative
86th Assembly District

J.A. DOC HINES
State Representative
42nd Assembly District

GARY TAUCHEN
State Representative
6th Assembly District

BARB GRONEMUS
State Representative
91st Assembly District

DAN MEYER
State Representative
34th Assembly District

CAROL OWNES
State Representative
53rd Assembly District

SUE JESKEWITZ
State Representative
24th Assembly District

PAT STRACHOTA
State Representative
58th Assembly District

SCOTT NEWCOMER
State Representative
33rd Assembly District

JOEL KLEEFISCH
State Representative
38th Assembly District

SCOTT GUNDERSON
State Representative
83rd Assembly District

MARK GUNDRUM
State Representative
84th Assembly District

JEFF STONE
State Representative
82nd Assembly District

SCOTT SUDER
State Representative
69th Assembly District

ROGER ROTH
State Representative
56th Assembly District

JOHN MURTHA
State Representative
29th Assembly District

RICH ZIPPERER
State Representative
98th Assembly District

JIM OTT
State Representative
23rd Assembly District

JOHN NYGREN
State Representative
89th Assembly District

TOM LOTHIAN
State Representative
32nd Assembly District

TERRY MUSSER
State Representative
92nd Assembly District

DAN LEMAHIEU
State Representative
59th Assembly District

JEFF SMITH
State Representative
93rd Assembly District

AI OTT
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

TERRY MOULTON
State Representative
68th Assembly District

JAMES SOLETSKI
State Representative
88th Assembly District

JEFFREY MURSAU
State Representative
36th Assembly District

KARL VAN ROY
State Representative
90th Assembly District

ANN HRAYCHUCK
State Representative
28th Assembly District

JEFF WOOD
State Representative
67th Assembly District

KEVIN PETERSEN
State Representative
40th Assembly District

DALE SCHULTZ
State Senator
17th Senate District