

Wice, Samuel L. EOP/OMB

From: Ashley Piatek <ashley@nativeselectionswine.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 9:07 AM
To: MBX USTR 301aircraft
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Large Civil Aircraft Dispute Portal Comment

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing to draw your attention to the tariffs on European wine presently being considered by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) which could have extremely severe consequences on the American wine industry, including District of Columbia importers, distributors, wine shops, and restaurants. In the entry to the Federal Register on December 12th, 2019 (Document: 84 FR 67992), the USTR lists European wines among the products that could face tariffs of up to 100 percent as soon as January of 2020. Though the USTR's stated intention is to protect American business from unfair competition, additional tariffs on European Wine would do significant economic harm to a sector of the American beverage business that pre-pandemic was thriving. With the current crippling of the economy and the resulting closing and restricted openings on so many restaurants and retail, price increases on wine as a result of additional tariffs will only continue to worsen the state of our wine industry.

While there is certainly wine available to purchase from other non-European countries, there are simply no comparatives to many of the wines produced in Europe (think: Champagne, Bordeaux, Rioja, Chianti, Burgundy, etc). If these tariffs are applied, prices on these wines would increase to untenable levels which would bankrupt an entire segment of the American wine market in a matter of months. Consumer spending would not simply result in the purchase of more non-European wine, but no purchase at all. The reduced consumer demand will result in hundreds of American companies closing and thousands of people losing their jobs.

Please reconsider the tariff increase on European wines for the sake of small companies who create jobs and tax revenue for the economy and depend greatly on European wines to do so.

Thank you, in advance, for your timely attention to this important matter.

Ashley Piatek

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