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Comment from Amy Ezrin, The Piedmont Guy

This is a Comment on the **Office of United States Trade Representative (USTR) Notice: [Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Large Civil Aircraft Dispute Portal](#)**

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Comment

Please get emergency clearance for a new portal to collect statements against the continuance or addition of tariffs on imported wine and spirits.

The US wine industry employs 1.74 million people[1] and generates \$68.1B in sales[2] through both retail and hospitality channels. Approximately a third of these sales are from imports[3], 75% for wines produced in EU countries [4]. Those wines are sold by every mom-and-pop corner liquor store struggling to pay the rent, every salesperson trying to meet her sales target, every young person waiting tables to put themselves through school, every truck driver working around the clock to deliver packages to consumers and businesses, and many thousands of other middle-class Americans around the country who work in the wine industry. The proposed tariffs, which range from 25-100%, will have a devastating effect on these people and their families.

Wines are not easily interchangeable products. Consumption of EU wines will not shift to US wines in a trade war. Moreover, the highest value EU wines are not like smartphones or widgets, where manufacturing can easily be increased or decreased according to demand, but are instead inherently limited in production. The companies that make those wines will simply find other markets for their products. Once those wines are sucked out of the US economic sphere, they will never come back.

In addition, these tariffs pose a significant and very real threat to the long-term viability of wineries in the United States. In 2018, the EU was the largest export market for

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California wines[5]. The EU could very well choose to retaliate by levying tariffs on US wines, which would be devastating to American wineries precisely at a time they need growth from those markets to survive and are broadly beginning to establish themselves as qualitative peers to the very best European wines. Moreover, lower-priced wines from EU countries are often the first wines American consumers try before moving into higher-end segments of the market where the US has traditionally been so strong. If those affordable wines are no longer available, younger consumers will shift to other beverages such as beer and spirits, dealing another crushing blow to our US wine industry.

A new round of tariffs will ultimately create a domino effect where the entirety of the US wine industry shrinks (both distribution and production), leading to a decrease of sales tax revenues, lower corporate tax revenues, layoffs and loss of personal tax revenue.

I respectfully believe there are more direct and targeted measures that can efficiently address our current trade disputes. I urge you not to put the livelihood of so many American families at risk with these proposed tariffs and to create a portal through which we may be able to register our objection to ongoing tariffs.