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Comment from Kevin Day,

The 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

My comment pertains to action on the Large Civil Aircraft Dispute Portal (Airbus, Boeing and subsequent tariffs on EU goods) ... specifically, one piece of this action: the wine industry.

It is essential to the American economy to not only reduce tariffs on European wines, but eliminate them entirely. Earlier this year, this policy looked like a possible self-inflicted wound on the American economy. Now, with restaurants nationwide on the ropes due to the COVID-19 emergency, reducing their options of available wines will significantly curb their ability to make a profit. Many restaurants are only surviving today because their local city governments eased restrictions to sell alcohol at takeout. The mark-up on these wines often are the difference from being financially viable to failing, and the U.S. does not make enough domestic wine to meet the demand.

This policy will also jeopardize the many jobs found in retail, importing, distribution and logistics. Remember: we have a federally mandated three-tier system for the distribution of wine, and it is a system that sustains millions of jobs, even with the current state of the economy. Why would we do this to ourselves, especially with the state we are in? It is wise to hold off on further action; it is better to remove the original tariffs in the first place, to further stimulate domestic spending and promote job creation. Lord knows we could use that right now.

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