

The wine and wine grape commodity board recently funded a study, by MKF Research, that showed the total impact of our commodity on PA's economy is \$661,135,000. We can provide this carefully researched document if you would like to see it.

That has lent credence to our small agricultural industry and provided impetus to request of our legislators a \$2 million funding source for a proposed PA Marketing and Research Foundation.

Other things of great concern is new legislation being proposed that would stop PA wineries from being able to ship directly to consumers.

We are also concerned about the requirement them to pay an additional 18% tax (in addition to the state's 6%) for wine sold. After heavily investing in planting vineyards and equipping our wineries with NO support from the state for the wine and wine grape commodity with the understanding that we would not be subject to this onerous cost we feel betrayed by a state that has had such a strong ag agenda.

We are typically short of certain grape varieties each vintage, in spite of a stop-gap measure that allowed us to buy limited quantities from contiguous states and would like to be able to supplement in-state purchases with out-of-state grapes from ANYWHERE we feel is appropriate to our product lines.

Recently the PA LCB has been irrationally denying wineries the previous privilege of showing and selling wine at fairs, cultural events and other public gatherings. While the income has been greatly appreciated, equally important has been the opportunity to showcase and market wines to a public that otherwise would not know the very good wines PA is making.

We are an incipient industry poised for expansion in a period of significant regional culinary interest and hope you can help us maintain our growth.

Sincerely,

Eric Miller