

## FW: Rules Governing Wineries and Breweries

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Noelle Madera <Noelle.Madera@co.yakima.wa.us>

Thu 2/17/2022 8:32 AM

To: Olivia Story <olivia.story@co.yakima.wa.us>

Here is this comment letter if you want to include it with the exhibits and add him to the parties of record list.

Noelle Madera

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**From:** Noelle Madera  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:35 PM  
**To:** rab@bentonrea.com  
**Subject:** RE: Rules Governing Wineries and Breweries

Richard Boushey,

Thank you for your comment. We will be forwarding all comments to the Planning Commission as this project moves forward.

Noelle Madera

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**From:** [rab@bentonrea.com](mailto:rab@bentonrea.com) [<mailto:rab@bentonrea.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 8:43 AM  
**To:** Noelle Madera <[Noelle.Madera@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:Noelle.Madera@co.yakima.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Rules Governing Wineries and Breweries

**CAUTION :** This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Noelle Madera,

My name is Richard Boushey and I farm grapes in Yakima County and Benton County. I have done this for over 40 years. I have also grown Apples and Cherries for 35 years. Currently I am on the WA State Wine Commission and other industry boards and committees.

Approximately 16 years ago I was chair of the Yakima Valley Winery Association working with Barbara Glover. When I got on the board I thought I would spend time bringing the industry together in the Valley and planning promotional events, such as, bringing wine writers and visitors to the Yakima Valley or organizing promotional tasting outside of the Valley. What I found myself doing was dealing with the county on permits. These revolved working with the health department and your planning department and getting clear guide lines about what was needed to build and operate a winery and tasting room. This association also worked with Benton County.

It was always very striking the differences between the two counties. I sell to 50 wineries in the state and a fair amount to wineries in Benton and Walla Walla counties. What I noticed was the different approaches each county took concerning wineries. In Benton and Walla Walla they would work closely with the wineries and were actually advocates for the industry. Most the time they had many of the same regulations but would work with the wineries to make it work. These counties wanted the industry to grow and thrive there was more of a partnership. Consequently, that's where the growth has gone. The wine industry generates more jobs per acre than any other commodity and the industry creates more taxes per acre than any other commodity, mostly through the wine tax. In a few years it will exceed apples in economic impact to the state. Yakima AVA has more wine grapes than any other in the state. Currently its around 13,000 acres, it is a great place to grow grapes. It is the birth place of the modern industry. There are 55,000 acres in the state. But, Yakima is probably the least recognized growing area. Most of the grapes leave the county because they have never formed a strong winery base and it is so restrictive and sometimes unfriendly place to be. I have not been on the winery board for 10 years.

The other part of this discussion seems to revolve around living in rural Yakima County and preserving this so called bucolic place. I live in the country outside of Grandview 5 miles out of town. If you spend much time in rural Yakima county you will probably hear trucks going around the clock hauling milk, silage, feed, fruit, manure, compost, fuel, equipment etc. You will hear wind machines all night in the spring and fall. You will hear propane cannons to scare birds in cherries and grapes. You can experience speed sprayers at any time of the day. Workers and worker buses driving to work from day light to dawn. There is a very large farm worker housing community below my vineyard that is well lighter and very active with 100 people living there 10 months out of the year. There is a nice big manure lagoon, 3 million gallons, below a vineyard I own. The smell from

this lagoon is a little overwhelming. The craziest time is harvest. We will have hops, grapes, apples, corn chopping and other crops going for 2 ½ months straight, it can be a dangerous noisy place.

To me, this environment is normal and I love it. It goes with the territory all the noise smells and people is what it takes.

Everyone is trying to make a living.

To complain about a few more cars or some one singing or playing music or groups enjoying wine seems a little trivial. If I you wanted peace and quiet I would move into town.

I don't mean this letter to offend you, you have lots of people to answer to. I am just sharing my perspective.

Thank you for your time,

Richard Boushey