

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [External] Wine taxes comments



PUBLIC COMMENT

From: Serena Friedman
Agenda Item: Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing
Meeting Date: 8/27/2024
Minutes Exhibit: 8.4

-----Original Message-----

From: Four Sisters Ranch [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 11:57 AM
To: +Taxpayers Rights Web Requests [REDACTED]
Subject: [External] Wine taxes comments

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Currently tax reporting in the state of California differs from federal tax reporting creating hardship and compliance problems. For the new federal rules taxes are based on the Alcohol class of The Wine, and whereas the federal reporting as it affects our winery requires division of wine into a category less than 16% alcohol, greater than 16% alcohol, and Sparkling Wine, (3 categories) the state requires 4 categories of alcohol classes. While even this is still burdensome still it is so much more reasonable and sensible then what the state demands, which is to calculste Taxes separating wines under 14% alcohol, 14 to 16% alcohol, greater than 16% Alcohol, and Sparkling Wine. This is so much more work- double work and has no good purpose. Time consumption is a cost to small businesses like myself. Please: Change this requirement to be consistent with the Federal Reporting.

If the federal government no longer sees any need to separate under 16% alcohol wines into two categories, then the state of California should have no justification to demand this extra unnecessary work.

Actually, my suggestion when you let a woman think about a solution to simplify things is to average out all the taxes you get divided by the number of gallons being reported and come up with one single average tax amount per gallon that will accomplish the same cash flow and leave it as a simple form. How many gallons did you produce or how many gallons did you sell? Multiply by this one tax multiplier amount no matter what the alcohol class and be done with it. I cannot understand why so much reporting time is made necessary for the ultimate goal of collecting tax money as long as this is accomplished.

In short let a real business woman direct you, not a bureaucrat.

Cheers- Serena
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