

John Girt

Small/start-up wineries have enough barriers that they should not be classified in the same level as those approaching 25,000 Gallons. That is over 10,000 cases of wine. Wineries starting production rarely make 2,000 cases their first couple of years. The fee structure proposed has significant impact on their cost per gallon. There should either be a lower tier where small producers are exempt or the tier structure should be dropped in favor of a per gallon fee. This is not burdensome for wineries as they already report the number to both the state and federal government. Tiered fees are unfair to those who produce at low end of range. Larger wineries have the ability to treat their waste water before it hits the environment. I see no accommodations for large producers who do not impact the environment at all.