

**Congressman Mike Thompson**  
Sonoma County District Office  
2300 County Center Drive, Suite A100  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

## **Wine Industry Resource List**

Congressman Thompson's office can provide assistance to companies and individual constituents located in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District who are dealing with federal agencies. This Resource List includes some of the most common areas where we have provided assistance in the past.

### **Wine Labeling Approvals**

Wine labels must be approved by the Alcohol & Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). While the label certification and approval process often goes smoothly, when issues arise or there are bottlenecks that delay processing your request, we can provide assistance.

### **American Viticultural Areas (AVA)**

Appellations for American wine are defined in federal regulations intended to identify grape-growing regions with distinguishing features. This allows vintners and consumers to attribute a given quality, reputation or other characteristics of a wine based on geographic origin. We can assist with the process of creating a new AVA or modifying the physical boundaries for a defined AVA.

### **Wine Caucus Events**

Congressmen Thompson and Duncan Hunter, Jr. (R-CA) are Co-Chairs of the Congressional Wine Caucus (CWC). When constituent winemakers are in Washington DC our office can help arrange wine tastings in cooperation with the winemaker. The CWC can also help arrange wine tastings by AVA, state, region or county.

### **Visa Assistance**

When you or your employees travel abroad on business, we can work with foreign embassies/consulates if delays occur when seeking a foreign visa. We are also able to work with the U.S. State Department when you have guests who need expedited processing of a visa for temporary entry to conduct business.

### **Customs Issues – Import**

Sometimes containers arriving from abroad are held at the Port of Oakland for customs inspections. We are able to work with the federal agencies involved in the import process to address delays in clearance. This situation may arise most often when your cargo containers are sent for off-port inspection because of other high risk cargo on the same vessel.

### **Export Promotion / Assistance**

Our office can help make introductions to the North Bay Export Assistance Center, the U.S. Commercial Services office responsible for assisting in exporting goods abroad. They are a resource that can assist with market intelligence, trade counseling, business matchmaking and advocacy/commercial diplomacy.

### **Grants & Letters of Support**

Using the resources of the Congressional Research Service, our office can assist in identifying grant opportunities that may exist with the Federal Government. Frequently, we also provide Letters of Support for grants from private or governmental entities. We are a solid “partner” in the process of securing grants for our constituents.

### **IRS Tax Assistance**

Because of the unique nature of the Wine Industry, tax issues sometimes come up that require assistance by our office. We can help facilitate contact with the IRS on your behalf to clarify issues and answer questions that are before the agency that relate to your specific tax situation.

### **Supply Chain Issues**

In addition to providing assistance to your company, we may also be able to assist your supply chain partners whose operations directly affect your company. All of the assistance we can offer to you we can also offer to your business partners located in the district.

### **Why Contact Congressman Thompson**

Congressman Thompson knows the business of wine and he has been advocating for policies that have helped make Northern California Wines one of the best known and most sought after products in the nation as well as in other parts of the world.

He has been exposing lawmakers to our unique, high quality wines through the activities of the Congressional Wine Caucus since he co-founded the Caucus in 1999.

His office is fully committed to advocate on your behalf.

**For Assistance, Please Contact**  
**Rebecca Hermosillo or Stephen Gale**  
**In the Santa Rosa Office**  
**(707) 542-7182**