

From: Ken Albert
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 11:06 AM
To: Ron Wild; Helen Head; Tom Stevens

Thanks so much for the opportunity to testify yesterday at the hearing on H.201. And, thanks for your thorough investigation on the contents of this proposed bill.

Representative Stevens asked the question: Do we consider ourselves a farm? As I answered yesterday, we do. We are farming 17 acres of grapes....and it's not just a summer activity. Yesterday as I was testifying, we had two of our crew out pruning the vines (a winter-long activity). I have attached a photo of our two key vineyard and winery employees, Ethan Joseph and Stephen Chick performing the pruning operation. During the dormant season each year we prune off most the the previous years growth. If this operation is not performed, the next season, the vines would form a jungle of canes and leaves, with fruit buried underneath, resulting in poorly grown and likely rotting berries.

Regards,
Ken

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