

**PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
**on the Excise Tax for Vintners, Microbreweries and Micro-distilleries**

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, draw attention to the House to the following:

WHEREAS in Essex, the more than 20 wineries, microbreweries and micro-distilleries are key contributors to our economy and these small and medium-sized businesses are the largest job creators in Canada;

WHEREAS Canada already pays the highest excise rates among the top wine importing countries in the world and the increase to the excise tax will add a significant financial burden for wineries and microbreweries who employ hundreds of people in our rural communities and who act as a major driver of tourism in our region;

WHEREAS all wineries and breweries pay the same excise duties per litre to the federal government, regardless of the volume, and this is unfair for microbreweries that cannot compete with brewing industry giants; and

WHEREAS the federal government should be helping wineries, microbreweries and micro-distilleries bring their products to market, instead of undermining this sector's growth, international competitiveness, decrease demand for Canadian grapes and damage our local hospitality, tourism and food sectors.

THEREFORE we, the undersigned, citizens of Canada, call on the federal government to reverse the increased excise tax for wineries, microbreweries and micro-distilleries.

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**Please return (postage paid) to:**

**Tracey Ramsey, MP for Essex**  
**House of Commons**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**  
**K1A 0A6**