January 6, 2020

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th St. NW
Washington, DC 20006


Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As members of the Wine Origins Alliance, we write to reiterate our opposition to tariffs on wine as countermeasures in disputes between the United States and the European Union. Instead of putting tariffs on unrelated products, like wine and sparkling wine, the U.S. and EU should increase their efforts to resolve these serious trade-related problems between them so the unrelated trade in wine products is not unintentionally harmed.

The Wine Origins Alliance is composed of 28 organizations from 11 countries spanning North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Together, we represent nearly 80,000 wineries and grape growers that have generated more than 900,000 jobs and more than $8 billion in global wine exports.

Wine is a sustainable product which promotes the economic, social and environmental well-being of people and the planet, now and in the future. Wine promotes peace and prosperity given its historical role in bringing nations together in commemorative moments of international understanding.

The United States and the European Union are the two leading wine producers in the world, collectively exporting $28 billion in 2018. Wine trade between the two has long been favorable and subject to much lower tariffs than are applied in wine trade between other countries. Instead of imposing barriers that jeopardize this, the U.S. and EU should be working together to lower trade barriers on wine around the world.

We urge you to work with the EU government to reduce or eliminate all barriers to trade in wine, and to exclude wine and sparkling wine products from your tariff countermeasures list. Promoting wine exports by removing trade barriers is critical to driving industry growth and creating new industry jobs.

Sincerely,