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December 8, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo Governor of New York State NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We looked around the world for the best location to develop our first joint winery project, bringing together know-how and prestige from two wine families from Northern California and the Mosel Valley, Germany, and chose the Finger Lakes. We extensively toured the region and fell in love with the soil and topography of an abandoned vineyard near the junction of Routes 79 and 414, just above Watkins Glen on the east side of Seneca Lake. There were no tax incentives offered to entice us to invest in the Finger Lakes. We were drawn by the opportunity to play a significant role in what we believe has the potential to become one of the most exciting wine regions in the world.

When we purchased the JP Vineyards site in 2013, we didn't believe the gas storage expansion would be allowed to proceed, given the importance of the rapidly expanding Finger Lakes wine industry. Beyond vines we have ordered for 2015 planting, we are considering holding off the further development of these vineyards and visitor center, a multi-million dollar project, until the question of gas storage expansion is resolved. We believe that the outcome of both the natural gas and LPG storage expansion struggle directly across the lake from our vineyards will have an extremely positive or severely negative impact on future Finger Lakes wine industry and tourism investments from around the world.

Sincerely,

Paul Hobbs

Johannes Selbach