

FW: Comments on Agritourism Draft Staff Report

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Long Range Planning <longrangeplanning@co.yakima.wa.us>

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To: Olivia Story <olivia.story@co.yakima.wa.us>

From: Patrick Rawn <patrick@twomountainwinery.com>

Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 4:52 PM

To: Long Range Planning <longrangeplanning@co.yakima.wa.us>

Subject: Comments on Agritourism Draft Staff Report

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Planning Staff,

I am writing this to submit as formal comments to draft Agritourism code revision. I, along with my brother, own and operate Two Mountain Winery in greater Zillah area. Our operation consists of 300+ acres of winegrapes, a production facility and tasting room located in our facility.

First, I much appreciate the effort by your staff and industry task force in working to update code to better reflect the realities of the agritourism industry in Yakima County. It is really important and the work is much appreciated.

Our current operation falls out of the scope of needing to obtain an ATO permit (excuse me if this terminology is inaccurate) as we only do tastings, wine club events and one or two small general public events per year. Additionally, we do not have plans to begin a larger event operation or marketing ourselves as an event venue.

However, I do believe some clarity on the proposed language in 19.18.550 (2) (c) is needed. The draft language gives some concrete examples of what "...non related to the operational and marketing aspects of a WB&D" are, but more clarity on what constitutes, in the affirmative, "operational and marketing aspects" would be very helpful. Optimally updated language is able to achieve this but at a minimum explicitly listing examples that meet the intent of this code language on the record is needed.

Our wine club is the focal point of our direct to consumer business. Many other wineries in Yakima County operate similarly given the positive economics of that business model. Ensuring that wine club facing events, regardless of size, are considered "operational and marketing aspects" is very important to the future financial viability of wineries in Yakima County.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments. Please do not hesitate to reach out at the contact information below if you have any questions.

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