



## Providing United States Winegrape Growers a Voice

### Newsletter

#### Winegrape Growers of America Federal Legislative Updates

Each year, Congress must pass 12 federal appropriations bills to fund activities and programs funded by the federal government. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are responsible for developing the appropriations bills. The House and Senate committees have 12 subcommittees—one for each appropriation bill.

The House has begun action on the FY 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. This bill funds the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, US Forest Service and the Food and Drug Administration.

The bill includes \$5 million for wildfire smoke taint research on winegrapes—an increase of \$500,000 above the fiscal year 2022 support for these research efforts—and supports research to identify the compounds responsible for smoke taint, establish a reliable database of background levels of smoke taint compounds occurring naturally in winegrapes, develop mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke taint, and study compounds that can act as a barrier between the grapes and smoke compounds.

The bill also includes \$219,698,000 for USDA-APHIS Specialty Crop Pests—an increase of \$10 million over FY 2022. These funds include:

- \$22,266,000 for the glassy-winged sharpshooter--additional \$1M over FY 2022;
- \$5,043,000 for the European grapevine moth; and
- \$18,319,000 for spotted lanternfly--additional \$1M over FY 2022).

The bill prohibits the Food and Drug Administration from enforcing the Produce Safety Rules of the Food Safety Modernization Act for winegrapes. It also directs the National Agricultural Statistics Service to collect information related to agritourism.

The House bill also provides funding specifically for USDA salaries. These have been funded in the past from funding provided for USDA programs.



# Providing United States Winegrape Growers a Voice

Continued...

## **2022 Smoke Summit Webinar Draws Huge Virtual Crowd**

In early June 2022, the West Coast Smoke Exposure Task Force (WCSETF) hosted their annual Smoke Summit webinar. During this webinar leading researchers from OSU, UC Davis and WSU presented their latest findings and insights on smoke issues. Also, Tim Rinehart, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) reviewed the efforts underway at ARS to launch a multi-million-dollar research effort to address the many complicated challenges that can follow wildfire smoke events. The webinar drew 300 people and panelists from California, Colorado, Washington, DC, Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington (also a few attendees from Australia, BC/Canada)!

### ***Did you miss the Summit or want to watch again?***

You can watch the recording at: <https://vimeo.com/719895838>.

## **Reminder to Renew Your Membership for 2022-2023**

From a relentless pandemic to wildfire disaster to federal funding and regulatory issues, what a year we endured and continue to endure. The silver lining? Our renewed enthusiasm coupled with your support allowed us to disseminate information, virtually network, lobby, and amplify our unified voice of U.S. winegrape growers to be heard loudly on the issues that matter to you!

**We must continue to represent the interests of growers impacted by public policies that affect their bottom line. Please join us and renew your WGA annual membership.**

The growth in membership the past year has been encouraging and our goal is to get every state with a grower related organization as a member!

Learn more about membership benefits at: [www.winegrapegrowersofamerica.org](http://www.winegrapegrowersofamerica.org). Invoices and reminders have been sent out. If you are interested in renewing your membership, please contact us and we can send you an invoice. If you have questions, contact us at 509.782.8234 or email [vicky@wawinegrowers.org](mailto:vicky@wawinegrowers.org).