



August 8, 2014

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

The New York Wine Industry Association (NYWIA) wishes to express its opposition to the proposed rollout of *.wine* and *.vin* top level domain names (TLDs).

NYWIA represents a majority of the wineries on most of the established wine trails within New York State. Our members have invested both time and money in creating and building the reputations of those unique trails and regions. At this time, we are of the belief that there are not sufficient safeguards in place to protect those identities, and we want to be sure that both our winery names and our geographic identities are appropriately protected before new TLDs are established.

While there are valid uses for domain names, it is important that *.wine* and *.vin* not be released until there is mutual agreement among applicants for *.wine* and *.vin* among interested parties. Until such time, we ask you to oppose the granting of these TLDs with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. This will help to protect both wineries and wine trails throughout New York and elsewhere from cyber-squatting and similar unethical activities.

Senator Gillibrand, we thank you for your work on the Senate Agriculture Committee and for the strong support you continue to demonstrate for the New York wine and grape industry. Please contact me if you have questions or if I can help in any way by phone at 315-536-4616 or by email at scott.osborn@foxrunvineyards.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Osborn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Scott Osborn, President
NYWIA