Chuck Wagner P. O. Box 268 Rutherford, Ca. 94573

August 26, 2020

Napa County Supervisors c/o Donald Barrella 1195 Third Street, Room 210 Napa, CA 94559 Donald.Barrella@countyofnapa.org

RE: In Support of Anthem Winery's Application to Modify Its Use Permit

Dear Supervisors,

I write in support of Julie and Justin Arbuckle's application to modify Anthem Winery's Use Permit. I understand that the Planning Commission unanimously approved the Arbuckles' application to: 1) substantially improve the safety of their winery's access road; 2) build a larger winery facility; and 3) allow tastings by appointment and occasional events instead of just 5 tastings a week. I hope that the Board will affirm the Planning Commission's unanimous approval of this project for several reasons.

<u>First</u>, the visitation and event levels approved are modest, especially when compared to similarly sized wineries that have come before the Planning Commission in the past decade. <u>Second</u>, the Arbuckles substantially reduced the scope of their project to address neighbor concerns, and at the request of several neighbors, agreed to withdraw their request for *any* increase in their currently permitted 30,000 gallon annual production limit. <u>Third</u>, the project incorporates an exemplary number of green, sustainability, and safety measures, including:

- The use of *less* water than currently permitted through substantial rainwater harvesting, recycling of winery process water, and a water-efficient underground irrigation system.
- An improved two lane access road that will have much better access for emergency vehicles and that will enable access between Redwood Rd. and Dry Creek Rd., as well as to neighboring parcels in the emergencies such as fires, landslides, and earthquakes a valuable benefit to the community.

- A wine production facility and caves that are built into the hillside near the center of the Arbuckles' property, minimizing the visibility and size of buildings to be located on the hilltop.
- A certified Napa Green winery in addition to the existing Napa Green vineyards.
- Numerous Best Management Practices and greenhouse gas reduction measures, including the solar rooftops, electric vehicle charging, and the plan to encourage employees and customers to carpool or ride their bikes.

All of these highly sustainable measures make Anthem Winery's project one that should be unanimously approved. Napa County's General Plan is clear that agriculture is the highest and best use of land, and the Arbuckles' careful planning maximizes the agricultural use of their land, and at the same time, reduces their approved water usage and improves emergency ingress and egress to and from the surrounding hillside.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important issues, and for the opportunity to express my views. I sincerely hope that the Board affirms the Planning Commission's unanimous approval of Anthem Winery's application to modify its use permit so that the Arbuckles can proceed with their small winery project.

Sincerely, Auck Wan