

To: Town of New Paltz ZBA, October 16, 2007.

Subject: Rivendell Farm Winery as an Agricultural Entity

I am Michael Migliore, President of the Hudson Valley Wine and Grape Association, and co-owner of Whitecliff Vineyard & Winery. I wish to speak in support of Rivendell.

If you as members of the ZBA uphold the position that a Farm Winery is not agricultural, then you will be sending a chilling message to the farm community, not only here in New Paltz, but throughout the Valley and the state of New York. Farmers from every region depend on Rivendell to be an outlet for their products. By upholding the opinion of the building inspector, you will set the stage to tell farmers that want to sell value added products, processed by farmers, that they can't press apples to make cider, or make an apple or pumpkin pie. Forget about farm jams and jellies, or cheese and ice-cream. Value added products often make the difference between a farm surviving and falling to the developer.

I spend a good deal of my time telling Hudson Valley fruit growers to diversify into grapes to buffer the monoculture of apples and supply the current need to 1000 acre of Hudson Valley Grapes. This sends the wrong message to those farmers. That is that the Farm Wineries that will purchase those grapes won't be around to do that.

Finally, I would ask the ZBA to weigh the positive contributions that wineries like Rivendell make to the local community. The preservation of open space. An economic impact equal to two dollars out of three spent by winery visitors going to other local business. Low environmental impact and finally an outlet for local farm products. I urge you to support Rivendell's appeal.

Yours truly,

Michael Migliore