

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The California Wine Institute this week presented Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) with its Leadership Award in appreciation for his work supporting the California wine industry.

"I am proud to support an industry that is one of the economic drivers for the state's economy," Rep. Farr said. "California wineries benefit communities with farming and winemaking practices that are socially and environmentally responsible, and enhance the quality of life by preserving open space and offering cultural attractions such as festivals, concerts and museums."

The Wine Institute was in Washington for its 26th annual Washington Week. Vintners met with congressional leaders and administration officials to discuss policy issues important to the industry.

"Through his work on the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Farr has been instrumental in promoting and protecting the wine industry not only in his district on California's Central Coast but in wine regions throughout the state as well as the entire country," said Wine Institute President and CEO Robert Koch. "He understands that wine's unique role in both agriculture and tourism impacts a wide variety of industries dependent upon and stimulated by the wine industry."

Established in 1934, the Wine Institute is the public policy advocacy group of 1,100 California wineries and affiliated businesses that initiate and advocate state, federal and international public policy to enhance the environment for the responsible consumption and enjoyment of wine. The Wine Institute membership represents 95 percent of California production and 85 percent of U.S. production.

"Congressman Farr has advocated for agricultural research, sustainable development, tourism promotion, and a host of other initiatives vital to the industry," said Koch. "We are honored to recognize Congressman Sam Farr."

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