

To whom it may concern

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Mine

I write in my capacity as President of the International Wine Academy, and as a Burgundy winemaker, to express my and the Academy's deepest concern about the proposed gold mine project in Central Otago.

The International Wine Academy brings together circa 100 members from 20 different nationalities. Its members are world famous wine producers, scientists, sommeliers and communicators. They aim to contribute to the improvement of viticulture and winemaking practices, respecting nature and constantly pursuing ever-higher quality standards. Climate change, biodiversity, regenerative viticulture, carbon capture, phytosanitary treatments, consumer habits, and soil enrichment and preservation are among the key topics regularly discussed during the Academy's symposiums.

To anyone involved in the wine world, the name Central Otago evokes a unique wine region, admired for the quality of its wines and for the resilience, entrepreneurial spirit and dedication of its wine growers. The International Wine Academy recently recognized the importance of Central Otago for the wine world by inviting Nick Mills, of Rippon Vineyard, to join its ranks. We are proud and honored that he accepted.

As a Burgundy winemaker, I am impressed by Central Otago's magnificent pinot noirs, produced using similar viticulture and vinification techniques to ours. There are many exchanges of best practices between our two regions, and we mutually accept trainees from our regions to learn winemaking away from home. Compared to Burgundy's, Central Otago's wine history is short of course, but there is no doubt that the region has a bright future due to the quality and personality of its wine production. There is considerable mutual respect between Central Otago and Burgundy.

Allowing a gold mine project such as Bendigo-Ophir would put this bright future at risk and annihilate decades of efforts by Central Otago's winemakers to promote and at the same time protect their region. We urge you not to allow the project.

Guillaume d'Angerville at the AIV