

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We are writing today to ask you to pass the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act (S. 362/H.R. 1175) and make the existing federal excise tax rates for beverage alcohol producers permanent.

Every state in our nation is proudly home to craft distillers, brewers, wineries, cideries, and meaderies who without Congressional action, face a significant increase in their federal excise taxes on January 1, 2021.

In addition to creating jobs in every state and Congressional district, beverage alcohol producers are critical partners to our farmers and agriculture producers, the tourism industry, the manufacturing sector, and the hospitality industry, including restaurants, bars, and other on-premise establishments. Together, these producers support over four million jobs across the country and contribute immensely to the vibrancy of our economy and communities.

However, with the economic duress brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, producers' businesses have been devastated which would be compounded by an increase in their federal excise taxes. Producers have already seen dramatic declines in revenue because of the closures of tasting rooms and restaurants, bars, and other on-premise establishments and cancellations of major sporting events and concerts. These losses ripple throughout the supply chain, affecting farmers, agriculture producers, manufacturers, truck drivers, warehouse workers, and countless others.

It is imperative that the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act be included in the next appropriate legislative package and acted upon before the end of the year. As businesses struggle to retain workers and stay open, allowing the current rates to lapse would force many businesses across the country to lay off workers or close their doors permanently. With the support of 77 Senators and 351 Representatives, this bill is a bipartisan priority and an important economic lifeline to thousands of businesses across the country.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator

/s/

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

/s/

Tom Carper
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

/s/


Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

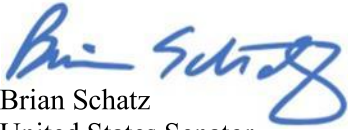
Todd Young
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

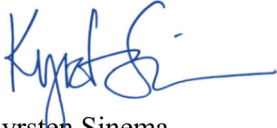
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



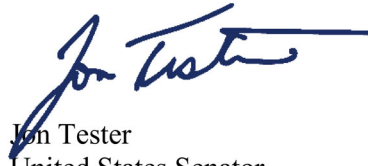
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator