

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
H-204 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Neal, and Ranking Member Brady:

Like many other members of Congress, our congressional districts are home to a growing number of craft distilleries, breweries, small wineries, and cideries. American production of craft beverages has significantly increased over the past decade in response to a rapidly rising demand. Overall, beverage alcohol producers and importers support over four million American jobs.

With the devastating impacts of COVID-19 sweeping across our country, craft beverage producers have been hit hard as nearly half of all revenue comes from tasting rooms and in person sales. Restaurant and bar closures have also had a tremendous impact on sales. At the same time, many distillers and breweries have redirected their resources to manufacture hand sanitizer and are donating the product to local first responders, postal workers, law enforcement officers, and other front-line employees. Now more than ever, these businesses need certainty that they will not face a substantial tax increase in 2021 so that they can rebuild their businesses once this pandemic begins to subside without fear of further financial turmoil looming.

Fortunately, Representative Ron Kind and Representative Mike Kelly introduced H.R. 1175, *The Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act*. This legislation would make permanent the recalibrated Federal Excise Tax (FET) rates that were passed in 2017, again in 2019, and are set to expire on December 31 of this year. This FET relief has already proven to work just as Congress believed it would. Prior to COVID-19, beverage alcohol producers and importers were reinvesting in their businesses, hiring new employees, purchasing American-made equipment, and increasing purchases from local agriculture suppliers. H.R. 1175 will help strengthen these

Main Street businesses and preserve American jobs not just in the alcohol beverage industry but also retail, agriculture, and manufacturing.

Waiting to subject this tax relief to another extension or spending package at best disrupts business planning decisions, and at worst could potentially cause a return to unrealistic tax levels – that is why over 340 bipartisan members of the House have signed on as cosponsors to H.R. 1175. Given this overwhelming support, we hope that you will work to include H.R. 1175 in any appropriate legislation that is set to be considered on the House floor.

Sincerely,



Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

Rep. Salud O. Carbajal  
Rep. Julia Brownley  
Rep. John Garamendi  
Rep. Harley Rouda  
Rep. TJ Cox  
Rep. Ted Lieu  
Rep. Jim Costa  
Rep. Juan Vargas  
Rep. Eric Swalwell  
Rep. Paul Cook  
Rep. Doug LaMalfa  
Rep. W. Gregory Steube  
Rep. Ted S. Yoho, D.M.V.  
Rep. John H. Rutherford  
Rep. Brian J. Mast  
Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis  
Rep. Neal P. Dunn  
Rep. Bill Posey  
Rep. Ross Spano  
Rep. Francis Rooney  
Rep. Darren Soto

Rep. Charlie Crist  
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings  
Rep. Al Lawson, Jr.  
Rep. Anthony Brindisi  
Rep. Joseph D. Morelle  
Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney  
Rep. John Katko  
Rep. Van Taylor  
Rep. Bill Flores  
Rep. Chip Roy  
Rep. Vicente Gonzalez  
Rep. Susan Wild  
Rep. Daniel P. Meuser  
Rep. Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Rep. Scott Perry  
Rep. Steve Chabot  
Rep. Steve Stivers  
Rep. David P. Joyce  
Rep. Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S  
Rep. Bob Gibbs  
Rep. Christopher H. Smith

Rep. Bill Johnson  
Rep. Troy Balderson  
Rep. Anthony Gonzalez  
Rep. Adam Kinzinger  
Rep. Tom Malinowski  
Rep. Andy Kim  
Rep. Mikie Sherrill  
Rep. Daniel T. Kildee  
Rep. Ted Budd  
Rep. David Rouzer  
Rep. Tom O'Halleran  
Rep. Andy Biggs  
Rep. Barry Loudermilk  
Rep. Doug Collins  
Rep. Tom Graves  
Rep. Buddy Carter  
Rep. James Baird  
Rep. Angie Craig  
Rep. Collin C. Peterson  
Rep. Tom Emmer  
Rep. Pete Stauber

Rep. Jim Hagedorn  
Rep. David P. Roe, M.D.  
Rep. Denver Riggleman  
Rep. Jennifer Wexton  
Rep. Ben Cline  
Rep. Scott R. Tipton  
Rep. Ed Perlmutter  
Rep. Diana DeGette  
Rep. Ken Buck  
Rep. Joe Neguse  
Rep. Doug Lamborn  
Rep. Ann Wagner  
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Rep. Dan Newhouse  
Rep. Rick Larsen  
Rep. Tom Rice  
Rep. Joe Cunningham  
Rep. James Comer  
Rep. John A. Yarmuth  
Rep. Andy Barr  
Rep. Hal Rogers  
Rep. Peter A. DeFazio  
Rep. David Loebsack  
Rep. Jamie Raskin  
Rep. John P. Sarbanes

Rep. Andy Harris, M.D.  
Rep. Trent Kelly  
Rep. Bennie G. Thompson  
Rep. French Hill  
Rep. Rick Crawford  
Rep. Joe Courtney  
Rep. Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Rep. Deb Haaland  
Rep. Tom Cole  
Rep. Russ Fulcher  
Rep. Chellie Pingree  
Rep. Jared F. Golden  
Rep. Chris Pappas  
Rep. Ann McLane Kuster  
Rep. James R. Langevin  
Rep. Alex Mooney  
Rep. Ed Case  
Rep. Greg Gianforte  
Rep. Peter Welch  
Rep. Don Young  
Rep. Brett Guthrie  
Rep. Rodney Davis  
Rep. Doris Matsui  
Rep. Vern Buchanan  
Rep. Will Hurd

Rep. Nadia M. Velázquez  
Rep. Jan Schakowsky  
Rep. Josh Gottheimer  
Rep. Kurt Schrader  
Rep. Tony Cárdenas  
Rep. Elise Stefanik  
Rep. Joe Wilson  
Rep. Debbie Lesko  
Rep. Jack Bergman  
Rep. Warren Davidson  
Rep. Elissa Slotkin  
Rep. Xochitl Torres Small  
Rep. Tim Burchett  
Rep. Derek Kilmer  
Rep. Peter King  
Rep. David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson  
Rep. William R. Timmons, IV  
Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Rep. Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Rep. Susan W. Brooks  
Rep. Lance Gooden