

**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 20515

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  
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Rep. Christopher H. Smith  
Rep. Bill Johnson  
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Rep. Tom Malinowski  
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Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson  
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Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Rep. Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Rep. Susan W. Brooks  
Rep. Lance Gooden