



September 9, 2019

Dear Senator,

As Congress returns from its August recess, we urge you to join over 270 Members of the House of Representatives and nearly 70 Senators in calling to make the federal excise tax reduction on distilled spirits permanent through co-sponsoring the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act of 2019 (H.R. 1175/S. 362).

Just 16 weeks from today, the federal excise tax reduction on distilled spirits that has been in place less than two years expires. Without passage of this critical piece of legislation, craft distillers across the country will be faced with a 400% tax increase and tremendous uncertainty.

Sponsored by Congressmen Ron Kind and Mike Kelly in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Ron Wyden and Roy Blunt in the U.S. Senate, this historic bill provides certainty to America's thousands of beverage alcohol producers – beer, wine, spirits and cider – by permanently reducing Federal Excise Taxes (FET) paid on the product they produce. The temporary reduction in FET has enabled small businesses across the country to reinvest in their companies by purchasing much-needed equipment, hiring new employees, and providing new employee benefits. Such investments also are supporting local farmers who supply the grains needed to produce their spirits.

If Congress misses this historic opportunity to provide certainty and permanence to America's craft distillers, countless jobs across the country could be compromised. You will not want to miss this opportunity to join a bipartisan and bicameral effort to support America's vibrant small businesses. Please co-sponsor the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act of 2019 (H.R. 1175/S.362.)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Swonger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Swonger  
President & CEO  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS)