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## CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR CBMTRA HITS NEW MILESTONE

Last month, a coalition of bev alc trade groups supported a “Day of Action” to push for the passage of the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act, which lowered excise taxes for wineries, breweries and distilleries and is set to expire at the end of this year [see [WSD 10-17-2019](#)].

The “Day of Action” resulted in more than 10,000 engagements from more than 3,000 individuals, per a joint release from the Beer Institute, Brewers Association, Distilled Spirits Council, American Craft Spirits Association, Wine Institute, WineAmerica, the US Association of Cider Makers and American Mead Makers Association.

Now, the CBMTRA has 315 co-sponsors in the House and 73 in the Senate.

Industry trade groups underscored the economic growth that resulted from the tax cuts thanks to producers being able to hire new people, buy new equipment etc.

“Without this critical piece of legislation, that growth could come to a halt. There is no doubt this bill has broad support. It is time for Congress to act and provide the stability distillers need to continue to generate new jobs and support local agriculture and tourism,” says Distilled Spirits Council chief Chris Swonger.

“Without permanent and immediate reform, the stability of this vibrant industry is bound to be paralyzed,” says American Craft Spirits Association ceo Margie Lehrman. “And without the certainty of a long-term reduction, it is impossible for any new or existing distillery to implement a business plan when the wide tax variable threatens the ability to hire new employees, purchase equipment, provide staff benefits, and continue to grow.”