

DISTILLED SPIRITS & ILLINOIS

- | In 2010, there were only 2 craft distilleries in Illinois.
- | As of 2019, there are 34 craft distilleries in Illinois.
- | Illinois distillers make whiskeys, gins, vodkas, brandies, and specialty spirits.

Illinois Distillers Support the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act.

If Congress doesn't pass the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act by the end of the year, craft distillers could face a **400% tax increase**. That would force many distillers to close their doors.

Illinois Distillers Annually Support

JOBS
75,878

STATE GDP
Over \$6.7B

STATE EXPORTS
Over \$32M

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The Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act (CBMTRA) has had a profound effect on the growth of our family business. It has made it possible for us to modernize our factory, grow our team, and buy new equipment. It cannot be overstated how much this has fueled the growth of our distillery, the first in Chicago since the mid-1800s.

— **Sonat Birnecker Hart, President,**
KOVAL Distillery,
Chicago, Illinois

There are already so many hurdles to running this business. Any kind of advantage we can get is going to go right back into the business. We've already invested in hiring two new people. We've invested in down payments on equipment. We've switched from a foreign glass bottle maker to a US producer. If the federal excise tax reduction isn't passed this year, I'd say it would put a pretty severe damper on our growth: Instead of growing in leaps and bounds, it'd be more like baby steps. As a small business, margins are already incredibly small. This federal excise tax reduction would be very important for us to produce more quality spirit. Evanston, prior to our founding, was largely a dry town, so FEW Spirits has allowed for a flourishing restaurant, food, and brewing scene, enlarging and diversifying our community.

— **Riley Henderson, Head Distiller,**
FEW Spirits,
Evanston, Illinois

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