



March 16, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

We are writing today to ask you to co-sponsor and actively support policies and legislation that will play a critical role in helping America's breweries, wineries, distilleries, cideries and meaderies recover as they deal with the deeply disruptive and ongoing business impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Together, our associations represent businesses who contribute 5.6 million jobs across the U.S. In addition to creating jobs in every state and congressional district, the beverage alcohol industry is a cornerstone for many related food and beverage-based economies. The success of breweries, wineries, distilleries, cideries and meaderies is tied to farmers and agriculture producers, the tourism industry, the manufacturing sector and the hospitality industry, including restaurants, bars, and other on-premise establishments.

Prior to 2020, the businesses we represent were thriving, but due to the extreme economic duress brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, these businesses have been devastated. Small beverage alcohol producers have seen average revenue losses of 40% or more. We are asking you to support the alcohol beverage producers in your state and congressional district by co-sponsoring the following pieces of legislation:

- ***The RESTAURANTS Act of 2021 (S. 255/H.R. 793)***, would add \$120 billion to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, providing targeted grants to independent restaurants and other hospitality businesses, including breweries, wineries, distilleries, cideries and meaderies, as they deal with the long-term structural challenges facing the industry due to COVID-19.
- ***The Fairness for Craft Beverage Producers Act (H.R. 1035)***, which would provide beverage alcohol producers who make at least 35% of their revenue from onsite sales access to the additional funding provided to businesses with NAICS code 72, in the year end COVID-19 package. Relief programs like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and SBA debt relief have served as economic lifelines to distilleries, breweries, wineries, cideries and meaderies, but many of these businesses now face challenges in accessing critical relief intended for members of the hospitality industry.
- ***The Hospitality and Commerce Job Recovery Act of 2021 (H.R. 1346/S. 477)***, provides much needed relief to our partners in the hospitality, travel and tourism industries. This

bill also includes a one-time tax credit for our food and beverage partners who were left holding unmerchantable food and beverage inventory due to COVID-19-related closures in 2020.

- ***Seek the elimination of tariffs on beverage alcohol and its inputs.*** Urge the Administration to secure the permanent elimination of tariffs on all beverage alcohol and its inputs. Tariffs are taxes on our business operations, and the elimination or reduction of those tariffs would maintain the health of our businesses and global supply chains.

America's craft alcohol producers are vital for the reemergence of tourism and hospitality industries, but these producers must keep their doors open to help our local economies rebuild. If enacted, the above policies and bills would go a long way to helping ensure just that. We respectfully request that you co-sponsor these bills to help breweries, wineries, distilleries, cideries and meaderies survive this economic crisis.

Beer Institute
Brewers Association
Wine Institute
WineAmerica
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
American Craft Spirits Association
American Cider Association
American Mead Makers Association