



April 12, 2021

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

On behalf of the Toasts Not Tariffs Coalition, which includes 48 U.S. associations representing the entire three-tier chain of the U.S. alcohol industry, we are writing to seek your urgent support in securing the permanent removal of all EU, UK, and U.S. tariffs on distilled spirits and wines imposed in connection to unrelated trade disputes.

The recent agreements between the U.S., EU and UK to suspend tariffs on certain wines and spirits, including the 25 percent tariffs on exports of U.S. rum, brandy and vodka to the EU and UK, are significant steps in the right direction. This will support the recovery of distilleries, restaurants, and bars across the U.S. that were forced to shut down during the pandemic.

However, the EU and UK continue to impose a 25 percent tariff on American Whiskeys, including Bourbon, Tennessee Whiskey, American Rye Whiskey and American Single Malt Whiskey, which puts these products at a competitive disadvantage in those markets. The devastating impact of these tariffs on American Whiskey in our most important export markets is clear; since these tariffs were imposed in June 2018, American Whiskey exports have declined by 37 percent to the EU and by 53 percent to the UK.

In exactly 50 days, the EU's tariff is scheduled to double to 50 percent, further exacerbating the unlevel playing field in the EU market for American Whiskeys. Moreover, we are gravely concerned that if urgent action is not taken to lift these tariffs, many small U.S. distilleries will not be able to recover from the devastating impacts of both the tariffs and the pandemic.

On behalf of producers, importers, wholesalers and retailers that comprise the U.S. hospitality sector, we commend the Biden Administration for working to reestablish positive relationships with the EU and UK. We urge you to continue this positive momentum by prioritizing the permanent removal of EU, UK, and U.S. tariffs on distilled spirits and wine, which will help support U.S. jobs and businesses as the economy continues to recover.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Beverage Licensees  
American Craft Spirits Association  
American Distilled Spirits Alliance  
American Distilling Institute

American Single Malt Whiskey Commission  
Arizona Craft Distillers Guild  
Atlantic Seaboard Wine Association  
California Artisanal Distillers Guild

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Colorado Distillers Guild  
Connecticut Spirits Trail  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
Florida Craft Spirits Association  
Idaho Distillers Association  
Illinois Craft Distillers Association  
Independent Restaurant Coalition  
Iowa Distillers Alliance  
Kentucky Distillers' Association  
Louisiana Distillers Guild  
Maryland Distillers Guild  
Michigan Craft Distillers Association  
Montana Distillers Guild  
Napa Valley Vintners  
National Association of Beverage Importers  
National Association of Wine Retailers  
National Council of Chain Restaurants  
National Restaurant Association  
National Retail Federation  
New Jersey Craft Distillers Guild

New Hampshire Distillers Guild  
New York State Distillers Guild  
North American Shippers Association  
NY Wine Industry Association  
Ohio Distiller's Guild  
Oregon Distillers Guild  
Oregon Wine Council  
Pennsylvania Distillers Guild  
South Carolina Craft Distillers Guild  
Tennessee Distillers Guild  
Texas Distilled Spirits Association  
The Maryland Wineries Association  
U.S. Wine Trade Alliance  
Virginia Distillers Association  
Washington Wine Institute  
Willamette Valley Wineries Association  
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America  
Wine and Spirits Shippers Association  
Wine Institute  
WineAmerica