December 1, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We are writing today to ask you to pass the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act (S. 362/H.R. 1175) and make the existing federal excise tax rates for beverage alcohol producers permanent. Every state in our nation is proudly home to craft distillers, brewers, wineries, cideries, and meaderies who without Congressional action, face a significant increase in their federal excise taxes on January 1, 2021.

In addition to creating jobs in every state and Congressional district, beverage alcohol producers are critical partners to our farmers and agriculture producers, the tourism industry, the manufacturing sector, and the hospitality industry, including restaurants, bars, and other on-premise establishments. Together, these producers support over four million jobs across the country and contribute immensely to the vibrancy of our economy and communities.

However, with the economic duress brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, producers’ businesses have been devastated which would be compounded by an increase in their federal excise taxes. Producers have already seen dramatic declines in revenue because of the closures of tasting rooms and restaurants, bars, and other on-premise establishments and cancelations of major sporting events and concerts. These losses ripple throughout the supply chain, affecting farmers, agriculture producers, manufacturers, truck drivers, warehouse workers, and countless others.

It is imperative that the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act be included in the next appropriate legislative package and acted upon before the end of the year. As businesses struggle to retain workers and stay open, allowing the current rates to lapse would force many businesses across the country to lay off workers or close their doors permanently. With the support of 77 Senators and 351 Representatives, this bill is a bipartisan priority and an important economic lifeline to thousands of businesses across the country.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

Rob Portman  
United States Senator
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

John Boozman
United States Senator

/s/
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Mike Braun
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

/s/
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

Robert P Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Steve Daines
United States Senator
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

Josh Hawley  
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

John Hoeven  
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

Ron Johnson  
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

Kelly Loeffler  
United States Senator

/s/  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

Jerry Moran  
United States Senator