June 27, 2017

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
United States Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write to express our strong support for the current federal and state systems of alcohol regulation. These systems work well for consumers, producers, distributors, retailers, and the American public. We also wish to convey our support for maintaining the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) as a separate bureau under the Treasury Department, rather than consolidating the TTB into the Internal Revenue Service. The TTB works best as an independent bureau, and neither the industry nor the taxpayer would benefit from IRS control of the TTB.

Efficient and effective regulation of alcohol is important to the American public. Congress established the current regulatory framework for the alcohol beverage industry in 1933 with the repeal of Prohibition and the enactment of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act. This legislation clearly outlined the desire of Congress that alcohol regulation be done primarily at the state level and recognized the need for the federal government’s role in helping facilitate the states’ regulations. States have come to rely on the considerable expertise of the TTB. Congress has consistently supported this framework and worked with the states to uphold a regulatory environment that serves the interests of the public.

The TTB fulfills the bulk of the federal government’s role in alcohol regulation, serving as an important bridge between the states’ regulatory frameworks. The Bureau is the third-largest revenue generating agency and the most efficient tax collection agency, bringing in $436 for every $1 spent. The TTB also performs important competition and public safety functions. The Bureau enforces trade practice regulations at 620,000 licensed retailers across the country, reviews thousands of labels and product formulas, and regulates over 48,000 permitted alcohol beverage operations. These functions protect the consumer and ensure fair competition across the industry. In addition, the TTB investigates illegal production and distribution of alcohol beverages to stop counterfeit or potentially dangerous products from reaching consumers.

The TTB and the overall state-based regulatory framework of alcohol beverages work well as currently constructed. We urge you to preserve this system and support the independence of the TTB within the Treasury Department. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you on issues affecting the alcoholic beverage industry and the American public.

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Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney
Member of Congress

Doug Collins
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
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J. Luis Correa
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Steve Chabot
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Steve Cohen
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Barbara Comstock
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Jared Huffman  
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Darrell Issa  
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Bill Johnson  
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Trey Hollingsworth  
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Mike Kelly  
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Ron Kind  
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Kurt Schrader
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