



December 5, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pat Leahy, Ranking Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-218, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Committee Chairs:

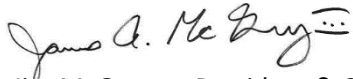
On behalf of America's leading producers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of beer, wine and distilled spirits products, we respectfully request that you maintain the current budget for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) and allocate \$119.6 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

In addition to collecting excise taxes, which results in \$388 captured for every dollar spent, TTB plays a critical role in ensuring consumer safety and a fair and competitive marketplace by enforcing the provisions of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act (FAA). This includes licensing and background checks for more than 90,000 permit holders, annual reviews of almost 194,700 container labels and approval of nearly 17,000 product formulas in addition to ongoing industry education and oversight to prevent illegal trade practices.

Our industry has experienced significant growth in recent years—growing the economy and creating valuable jobs, but also naturally increasing the demands on TTB. Despite these increased demands and expenses, the Bureau's budget has remained relatively flat. Any decrease in its budget could jeopardize the agency's ability to deliver critical services and cause disruptions in the marketplace.

Our continued success and growth are dependent on a well-funded regulator, and we urge you to sustain and approve the bureau's current budget.

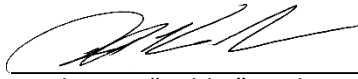
Thank you for your consideration of this issue and its impact on our industry. Please contact us if you have questions.



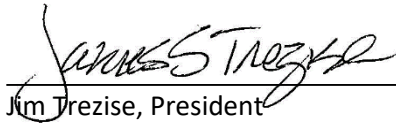
Jim McGreevy, President & CEO
Beer Institute



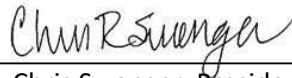
Robert D. Pease, President & CEO
Brewers Association



Robert P. "Bobby" Koch, President & CEO
Wine Institute



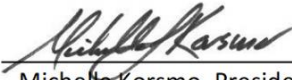
Jim Trezise, President
WineAmerica



Chris Swonger, President & CEO
Distilled Spirits Council



Margie A.S. Lehrman, Chief Executive Officer
American Craft Spirits Association



Michelle Korsmo, President & CEO
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America



Craig Purser, President & CEO
National Beer Wholesalers of America



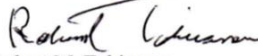
Sergio Moutela, President
American Mead Makers Association



John Bodnovich, President & CEO
American Beverage Licensees



Michelle McGrath, Executive Director
United States Association of Cider Makers



Robert M. Tobiassen
President
National Association of Beverage Importers, Inc.