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## **CRAFT BEER COUNCILMAN SUPPORTS TAX RELIEF FOR BEVERAGE INDUSTRY** ***Proposed Federal Bill Would Prevent a Tax Increase for Local Craft Breweries, Wineries, & Cideries***

San Diego, CA: The Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act (CBMTRA) Coalition, a group of national beverage alcohol trade associations, have all joined forces to encourage members of Congress to support passing the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act (S.362/H.R. 1175). The [Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act](#) was introduced by Senators Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and by Representatives Ron Kind (D-Wis.) and Mike Kelly (R-Pa.). This legislation will make permanent reforms enacted in 2017, creating a fair and equitable tax structure for brewers, winemakers, distillers, cider makers, and importers of all beverage alcohol. As of now, the bill currently has bi-partisan support, which includes 346 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 74 in the Senate.

The COVID-19 pandemic has critically affected the ability for craft breweries, wineries, cideries, and distilleries to survive. With rapidly-changing regulations, these small businesses are being forced to adapt at a breakneck pace causing an unprecedented financial burden for these local businesses. There is a critical need for funding and tax relief to ensure these local businesses survive the pandemic.

San Diego has branded the craft beer industry not only as a tourism contributor, but as a main economic driver. In 2018 alone, the craft beer industry contributed a total economic impact of \$1.2 billion to the San Diego economy, a 34 percent increase from 2016. A 2017 study found that the craft beer industry contributes approximately 6,275 jobs to the local economy, with \$171.3 million in combined labor. As of 2019, the County of San Diego is home to more than 150 independent breweries, with 93 located in the City of San Diego.

“One quarter of the city's breweries are in my council district, District 6. From small business relief funding to the [Breweries Experiencing Economic Roadblocks \(BEER\) Fund](#), which we established in partnership with the [San Diego Brewer's Guild](#), we are doing everything we can to support this vital industry. Including the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act in the next appropriate legislative package is critical to providing businesses with much-needed certainty and relief,” stated Councilmember Chris Cate, Chair of the City of San Diego's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Letter of Support: [Senators](#) | [Congressmembers](#)

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