



Delivered Via Email

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Senator McConnell, Senator Schumer, Representative Pelosi, and Representative McCarthy:

I write today as president and CEO of the Brewers Association (BA), the national trade association for America's more than 8,000 small and independent craft breweries, brewpubs, and taprooms. Located in virtually every congressional district in every state in the nation, these small brewery businesses employ approximately 150,000 workers in thousands of communities throughout the country.

Like most small businesses that do not have deep cash reserves and high lines of credit, BA members are reeling today from the deep and dire economic impacts of the ongoing—and vital—effort to combat and prevent coronavirus (COVID-19). Craft brewers are doing their part to help American communities get beyond this crisis, but today many are on the brink of financial ruin.

In a survey of Brewers Association members conducted over the previous two days, more than 600 respondents reported the following:

- 95.2% predicted that sales would decrease over the next month;
- 24.7% said production has stopped, and 64.1% said production has slowed; and
- 57.7% anticipate layoffs, and another 31.3% said they were unsure at this time.

We deeply appreciate all that Congress and the Administration are doing to shore up the economy during this global pandemic, but America's small craft brewers and their employees need your help. Among other things, we respectfully ask that Congress enact legislation implementing the following measures to ensure that these otherwise viable small breweries, brewpubs, and taprooms can weather this enormous national health emergency:

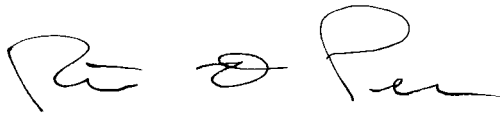
- Provide small brewers with direct monetary relief in the amount of \$3 billion to help cover costs associated with closures mandated by state and local officials;
- Provide loan deferments for up to two months with no interest accruals from commercial lenders;
- Make unemployment insurance available for all temporary laid off or furloughed employees, with no long-term negative impact on employers' insurance premiums;
- Provide paid sick leave for people lacking benefits through their employer;
- Provide paid quarantine leave for employees of businesses shut down due to quarantine; and
- Provide a temporary suspension or deferral of federal excise taxes.

Additionally, your support of any broader Administration efforts to provide tax filing and/or payment relief would be greatly appreciated.

This is certainly not an exhaustive list of provisions that would assist American craft brewers. But we would urge you to consider these and/or other proactive measures to shore up this expanding, vibrant domestic industry so that it is not overwhelmed by this short-term but devastating health emergency.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Pease', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bob Pease
President and Chief Executive Officer