

September 22, 2022

Dear Members of Congress:

We write to respectfully request that you cosponsor the United States Postal Service (USPS) Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3287/S. 1663) to allow breweries, distilleries, wineries, cideries, and meaderies to utilize the USPS to ship products to consumers where state laws permit it.

Breweries, distilleries, wineries, cideries, and meaderies operate in every state and congressional district and are critical partners to our country's tourism, hospitality, and manufacturing industries. Using barley, wheat, corn, hops, rye, grapes, apples, and honey, as well as other grains, fruits, and botanicals in products, the sector is integrally linked to our nation's agriculture sector.

Over the past few years, adult consumers have become increasingly interested in having their favorite products delivered directly to their door. This legislation would enable the USPS to participate in an existing marketplace alongside private sector carriers and generate an estimated \$190 million annually in new revenue.

As you review the legislation, please consider the following:

- **Beverage alcohol shipping occurs today in much of the country.** The Supreme Court case *Granholm vs. Heald* (2005) led to the expansion of direct-to-consumer wine shipping and the shipping of other types of beverage alcohol. Now, more states are considering legislation to allow adult consumers to ship beverage alcohol to their homes. Today, 47 states allow direct-to-consumer shipping of wine; 11 states allow direct-to-consumer shipping of spirits; and 13 states allow direct-to-consumer shipping of beer. (The District of Columbia allows for direct-to-consumer shipping of wine, spirits, and beer.) Yet, today, only private carriers can ship these products. Providing the USPS the ability to ship beverage alcohol products where legal would enable them to compete effectively in the modern marketplace.
- **The beverage alcohol industry is heavily regulated – and would remain so with the passage of the USPS Shipping Equity Act.** The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) carries out provisions of the Federal Alcohol Administration Act by approving labels and formulas, collecting federal excise tax, and enforcing regulations. The USPS Shipping Equity Act includes provisions to ensure that beverage alcohol producers may only ship to eligible consumers. The products shipped are subject to the same rigorous standards as any other beverage alcohol product currently on the market.
- **The USPS Shipping Equity Act does not make any changes to federal excise tax collection nor does it inhibit state or local authority in regulating beverage alcohol.**
- **Beverage alcohol shipping is shown to be safe and secure.** Beverage alcohol producers are responsible for age-gating on websites, noting with a clear label that the box contains alcohol, and identifying and paying for a shipping method that includes ID check. Like private carriers, the USPS has systems in place to verify restricted delivery to adult consumers. We, the undersigned groups, continue to strongly support the inclusion of language in the USPS Shipping Equity Act to require identification checks at point of delivery. Additionally:

- In 2003, a Federal Trade Commission [staff report](#) found: “The states that permit interstate direct shipping generally report few or no problems with shipments to minors.”
- In 2022, R Street Institute conducted [an analysis](#) on underage drinking and alcohol delivery. They noted: “In the end, this data demonstrates that there is no discernible connection between [direct-to-consumer] wine shipping and enhanced underage drinking rates.”
- **The USPS Shipping Equity Act affirms the preeminence of state, local, and tribal law regarding the delivery, shipment, and sale of beverage alcohol and addresses liability.** The legislation includes language to make clear that a state, local, or tribal government may take action against the USPS for a violation of a state, locality, or tribe, respectively, regarding the sale, mailing, transportation, or importation of beverage alcohol. The legislation further specifies that the USPS “shall be liable in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances.”

We encourage you to support this important piece of legislation that will allow for consumer choice, support businesses across the country that have suffered during the pandemic, create a new revenue stream for the USPS, and allow USPS to compete in the marketplace more effectively.

For more information or to add your office as a cosponsor to the USPS Shipping Equity Act (H.R. 3287/S. 1663), please reach out to: Eliazar Chacha ([Eliazar.Chacha@mail.house.gov](mailto:Eliazar.Chacha@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Speier (D-CA)’s office, Travis Martinez ([Travis.Martinez@mail.house.gov](mailto:Travis.Martinez@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Newhouse (R-WA)’s office, or Matthew Traylor ([Matthew.Traylor@merkle.senate.gov](mailto:Matthew.Traylor@merkle.senate.gov)) in Sen. Merkley (D-OR)’s office.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if any of our organizations can be a resource on this issue.

American Cider Association  
 American Craft Spirits Association  
 American Distilling Institute  
 American Mead Makers Association  
 American Postal Workers Union  
 American Single Malt Whiskey Commission  
 American Wine Society  
 Brewers Association  
 Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
 National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)  
 National Association of Letter Carriers  
 National Association of Postal Supervisors  
 National Association of Wine Retailers  
 National Postal Mail Handlers Union  
 National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association  
 United Postmasters and Managers of America  
 U.S. Apple Association  
 WineAmerica

Alabama Brewers Guild  
Arizona Craft Brewers Guild  
Arizona Craft Distillers Guild  
Arizona Craft Producers Association  
Arizona Wine Growers Association  
Arkansas Brewers Guild  
Arkansas Distillers Guild  
Brewers Association of Maryland  
Brewers Guild of Alaska  
Brewers Guild of New Jersey  
Brewers of Indiana Guild  
Brewers of Pennsylvania  
California Artisanal Distillers Guild  
California Craft Brewers Association  
Colorado Brewers Guild  
Colorado Distillers Guild  
Connecticut Brewers Guild  
Connecticut Spirits Trail  
DC Brewers' Guild  
Delaware Brewers Guild  
Distillers Association of North Carolina  
Distillers Guild of Alaska  
Distillers of San Luis Obispo County  
Family Winemakers of California  
Finger Lakes Wine Alliance  
Florida Brewers Guild  
Florida Craft Spirits Association  
Garden State Wine Growers Association  
Georgia Craft Brewers Guild  
Georgia Distillers Association  
Idaho Brewers United  
Idaho Distillers Association  
Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission  
Illinois Craft Brewers Guild  
Illinois Craft Distillers Association  
Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance  
Indiana Winery & Vineyard Association  
Iowa Brewers Guild  
Iowa Distillers Alliance  
Louisiana Craft Brewers Guild  
Louisiana Distillers Guild  
Maine Distiller's Guild  
Maryland Distillers Guild  
Maryland Wineries Association  
Massachusetts Brewers Guild  
Michigan Cider Association  
Michigan Craft Distillers Association  
Michigan Wine Collaborative  
Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild

Missouri Craft Brewers Guild  
Missouri Craft Distillers Guild  
Missouri Wine and Grape Board  
Montana Brewers Association  
Montana Distillers Guild  
Montana Grape and Wine Association  
Nebraska Craft Brewers Guild  
Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association  
Nevada Craft Brewers Association  
New Hampshire Brewers Association  
New Jersey Craft Distillers Guild  
New Mexico Distiller's Guild  
New Mexico Wine & Grape Growers Association  
New Mexico Winegrowers Association  
New York Cider Association  
New York State Brewers Association  
New York State Distillers Guild  
New York Wine Policy Institute  
North Carolina Cider Association  
North Carolina Wine and Grape Council  
North Dakota Brewers Guild  
Northwest Cider Association  
Ohio Craft Brewers Association  
Ohio Distiller's Guild  
Ohio Wine Producers Association  
Oregon Brewers Guild  
Oregon Wine Council  
Oregon Winegrowers Association  
Seneca Lake Winery Association  
South Carolina Brewers Guild  
South Carolina Craft Distillers Guild  
South Dakota Craft Brewers Guild  
Tennessee Distillers Guild  
Tennessee Farm Winegrowers Alliance  
Texas Craft Brewers Guild  
Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association  
Utah Brewers Guild  
Vermont Brewers Association  
Virginia Distillers Association  
Virginia Wineries Association  
Washington Brewers Guild  
Washington Distillers Guild  
Washington Wine Institute  
Washington Winegrowers Association