



June 23, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

We, the undersigned beer, wine and spirits associations representing virtually all alcohol beverages produced in the 50 states respectfully request you to preserve the effectiveness of the existing state-based alcohol regulatory system – and support the constitutional principles that protect the marketplace against discriminatory and anti-competitive state laws – by rejecting H.R. 5034.

The current system of alcohol beverage regulation in the U.S. provides a proven and effective balance between states and the federal government that allows for local flexibility while providing necessary consistency and fairness on a national basis. This allows producers, distributors and retailers to conduct business in an efficient and effective manner that best serves the interests of the American public.

The National Beer Wholesalers Association (NBWA) and the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America (WSWA) seek to dramatically alter the current system of alcohol regulation. With H.R. 5034, NBWA and WSWA want to put brewers, wineries, distillers and retailers at a competitive disadvantage; allow states to unfairly and arbitrarily enact protectionist laws against out-of-state beer, wine and spirits producers; and effectively eliminate federal oversight of alcohol. Specifically, H.R. 5034 would allow states to pass laws that violate the dormant Commerce Clause, federal antitrust laws and any other Act of Congress.

We fully support existing state alcohol regulatory systems and believe they provide an effective and efficient balance of control that serves the interests of consumers, producers and the marketplace as a whole. We strongly oppose H.R. 5034 and respectfully ask that you refrain from supporting this unnecessary legislation.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE PAPAZIAN  
PRESIDENT  
BREWERS ASSOCIATION

BILL NELSON  
PRESIDENT  
WINEAMERICA

PETER CRESSY  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
DISTILLED SPIRITS COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES

ROBERT P. KOCH  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
WINE INSTITUTE

TIM SCULLY  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR  
BEER INSTITUTE

Based in Boulder, Colorado, USA, the **Brewers Association** (BA) is the not-for-profit trade and education association dedicated to small and independent American brewers, their craft beers and the community of brewing enthusiasts. Visit [www.BrewersAssociation.org](http://www.BrewersAssociation.org) to learn more. The association's activities include events and publishing: CraftBeer.com, World Beer Cup®; Great American Beer Festival<sup>SM</sup>; Craft Brewers Conference and BrewExpo America®; National Homebrewers Conference; National Homebrew Competition; SAVOR: An American Craft Beer & Food Experience; American Craft Beer Week; Zymurgy magazine; The New Brewer magazine; and books on beer and brewing. The Brewers Association has an additional membership division of 20,000+ homebrewers: American Homebrewers Association.

Consumers are invited to learn more about the dynamic world of craft beer at [CraftBeer.com](http://CraftBeer.com).

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**Beer Institute** was organized in 1986 to represent the brewing industry before Congress, state legislatures and public forums across the country. It is committed to developing sound public policy that focuses on community involvement and personal responsibility. As the recognized and authoritative source of information on aspects of the industry, Beer Institute focuses on these principles through its representation, information and service. Beer Institute assures a role for industry members in formulating public policy goals and works to implement our goals by providing representation before federal and state governmental bodies. For more information visit: [www.beerinstitutione.org](http://www.beerinstitutione.org)

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**The Distilled Spirits Council** is the national trade association representing America's leading distillers and nearly 70% of all distilled spirits brands sold in this country. Over the years, the Council has served as the distillers' voice on policy and legislative issues in our nation's capital, state capitals and foreign capitals worldwide. Our strong commitment to responsibility is the foundation of everything we do as an organization and as an industry. For more information visit: [www.discus.org](http://www.discus.org)

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**WineAmerica** is the national trade association of American wineries with more than 800 members in 48 states and works to encourage the dynamic growth and development of the American wine industry through the advancement and advocacy of sound public policy. For more information visit: [www.wineamerica.org](http://www.wineamerica.org).

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Established in 1934, **Wine Institute** is the association of more than 1,000 California wineries and affiliated businesses that initiates and advocates public policy to enhance the ability to responsibly produce, promote and enjoy wine. Wine Institute membership represents 85 percent of U.S. wine production and 90 percent of U.S. wine exports. For more information visit: [www.wineinstitute.org](http://www.wineinstitute.org)