



*Delivered Via Email*

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Patty Murray  
U.S. Senate  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Patty Murray:

I write today as Executive Director of the Washington Brewers Guild, the non-profit trade association representing Washington State's small and independent breweries. Located in every Congressional District in our State, Washington is home to over 400 breweries and these small brewery businesses directly employ over 6,300 workers in urban, rural and suburban communities all across our great state.

Washington small brewers have been deeply impacted from dire economic dislocation being caused by 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.

Here in Washington, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak, our brewers are on the forefront of experiencing the traumatic and damaging economic and human impacts of this disaster. Washington lawmakers have taken drastic measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19 to protect Washington communities, including ordering the closure of brewery taprooms. The emergency closure has led to widespread lay-offs for our industry's beloved employees and left brewery owners largely struggling to meet financial obligations necessary to keep their businesses alive.

Washington's small craft brewers and their employees need your help – and we deeply appreciate all that Congress and the Administration are doing to shore up the economy during this global pandemic. 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 who don't have 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.

We thank you for your consideration of these asks and acknowledge that there are additional solutions you will be looking to. We appreciate all that you are doing to assist Washington brewers and craft brewers across the country. We urge you to continue to move forward swiftly with assistance, as WA brewers need immediate relief to address the immediate impacts being felt by this health emergency.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie McGrath', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Annie McGrath  
Executive Director  
Washington Brewers Guild