



September 26, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We are writing on behalf of the American Craft Spirits Association (ACSA).

Most Americans are probably unaware, but every label and many formulas for a bottle of spirits, beer and wine require approval by the Alcohol, Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), a part of the U.S. Treasury Department.

In some cases, it can take several weeks or months to get this approval. Nevertheless, in recent years, TTB has substantially reduced the approval time. We applaud these efforts, particularly given the growth of the numerous brands of craft spirits, beer, and wine in the alcohol beverage industry.

We write to express our concern that any government shutdown possibly means that TTB would not be allowed to perform services critical to the operations of our small business sector. No new labels or formulas would be approved. As during the last shutdown, while submissions are permitted, approval awaits finalizing appropriations funding or a continuing resolution. We note with some irony, that during this shutdown period it will likely be expected that alcohol producers continue to file electronic payments and returns for federal excise taxes.

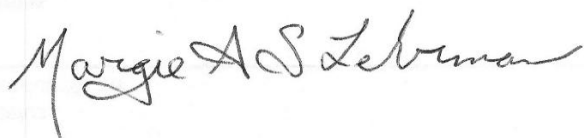
Failure to timely approve label submissions will be particularly hurtful to small businesses that are developing new and different craft products on a regular basis. This is particularly true now as we enter the holiday season, and sales in the last quarter of the calendar year substantially make up the profit for a small business for an entire year.

In order to continue the government's role in health and safety in the formula and label approval process, and to assist our small businesses, we would request that label and formula approval by TTB continue as an essential service during any period when the government is shut down.

While we hope that a shutdown does not occur, we wanted to alert you to our concern and make this request.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie A.S. Lehrman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margie" being the most prominent.

Margie A.S. Lehrman
CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Harris". The signature is more stylized and compact than the one on the left, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Rebecca Harris
Past President
Chair, Government Affairs