

Government Affairs Current Issues April 2025

National

Tariffs

Following an initial proposed imposition of “reciprocal” tariffs on countries that impose their own tariffs on U.S. goods, the Trump Administration announced a “pause” on April 9 to delay this action by 90 days. One of the major exceptions to this has been the tariff rate on all goods originating in China which has been revised to a minimum 145% rate. China has retaliated with a 125% tariff rate on all U.S. goods. As this “pause” continues, bilateral negotiations have been proceeding with many countries who would be subject to the higher tariff rates following the 90 day pause period with the intent of securing agreements before this time period ends.

Shortly after the announcement of this 90 day pause period, the Brewers Association reached out directly to both the White House and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to highlight the concerns and priorities of the craft brewing industry. The Brewers Association is continuing to keep this dialogue open, as well as with key Members of Congress, and will continue to track the status of negotiations as they develop.

Comments Submitted on Performing Rights Organizations (PROs)

In February, the U.S. Copyright Office issued a Notice of Inquiry relating to Performing Rights Organizations (PROs), which license artists’ copyrighted works to concert halls, bars, and other music venues, including breweries. The recent proliferation of PROs and related developments have presented challenges for small businesses and craft breweries alike. Feedback from our members highlighted the general frustration of having to deal with multiple PROs along with specific issues related to fractional licensing, bullying tactics, and one size fits all pricing models.

On April 11, the Brewers Association submitted comments to the Copyright Office to highlight these challenges and frustrations.

BA Comments

Introduction of the USPS Shipping Equity Act in Congress

On April 24, Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Representative Sahas Subramanyam (D-VA) introduced the United States Postal Service Shipping Equity Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. This important legislation allows the postal service to ship alcohol from licensed businesses to customers over the age of 21. If enacted, it would provide more opportunities for brewers to bring their product to customers, particularly

those in more rural areas who may face supply chain challenges getting their product to market.

The bill has been referred to the House Oversight and House Judiciary Committees for consideration.

[H.R. 3011](#)

The House Republican Budget and Budget Reconciliation Process

Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives have begun the process of rolling out their largest policy proposal of this Congress, a budget package designed to address both they and President Trump's policy priorities for 2025. This proposal will need to be passed under what are known as budget reconciliation rules, a complex parliamentary rules procedure that is required to pass legislation of this kind.

The U.S. House and U.S Senate both passed budget resolutions to begin this process, with the understanding that there would be further negotiations to potentially reduce spending as the motion is crafted and debated. Both chambers return from recess on Monday, April 28, at which point Congressional committees will begin holding hearings and mark-ups to negotiate the final text of the budget resolution. The stated goal is to conclude this process by May 9, get the legislation passed out of Congress and then on to the President's desk for his signature by Memorial Day, although the feasibility of this timeline is uncertain.

Both House and Senate will work separately on their versions of the bill. Once completed, the House will vote to send it to the Senate by a simple majority vote, and then the Senate will amend and then vote to approve the final product, also by a simple majority vote as the normal 60 vote threshold is waived under reconciliation rules.

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)

On April 4, the TTB extended the comment period on proposed labeling rules for alcohol facts and allergens by 120 days to August 15, 2025. The Brewers Association (BA) plans to submit comments just prior to the deadline.

[TTB Extends Comment Period for Proposed Labeling Rules](#)

USDA Resumes Payment of Approved REAP Grants for Brewers

On March 25, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will be releasing previously obligated funding under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) that had been frozen by one of the President's executive orders. As you may recall, on March 17, the Brewers Association met with USDA staff administering the program to express concerns

and advocate for the release of the funds, as brewers undertook substantial capital investments in reliance on these grant approvals.