



The American Distilling Institute | BOX 577 HAYWARD, CA 94543 | DISTILLING.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Melkon Khosrovian

213.949.3569 | melkon@greenbar.biz

America's Micro Distillers Urge Congress to Create Jobs

HAYWARD, Calif, January 30, 2012—America's small spirits makers are ready to hire more than 600 full-time employees and invest \$16 million into new equipment in 2012 if a proposed excise tax reduction bill, H.R. 777, becomes law, according to a recent survey of its members by the American Distilling Institute.

"Micro distilleries, which have sprung up in nearly every state, are primed to expand and revive one of America's heritage industries dating back to the founding fathers," said Bill Owens, chairman of The American Distilling Institute. "But they need excise tax relief, similar to previous changes that helped spur the tremendous growth of small wineries and microbrewers decades ago."

Late last year, American Distilling Institute asked the nation's 300 plus micro distillers how they would invest the anticipated \$1.71 per bottle in savings from H.R. 777. The respondents said that they would hire an average of 2.1 full-time employees and purchase \$54,111 of new equipment. At the full industry's scale, that would translate to 623 new full-time jobs and \$16 million of new capital investment.

"We ask Congress and President Obama to pass HR 777 into law this year so our members can continue to grow and create more American manufacturing jobs. We know it works, we've seen it with micro-brewers and small wineries boom over the past two decades," said Owens

The Small Distillery Excise Tax Act (H.R. 777) seeks to reduce the federal excise tax rate for small-scale distilled spirits makers, mirroring the current reduced tiers for small beer and wine producers. The American Distilling Institute contends that passing the bill would not only help distillers across the nation to grow and hire, but it would also benefit large numbers of American businesses that support micro distillers, such as farmers, equipment, and packaging manufacturers as well as welders, mechanics, plumbers and electricians that facilitate daily operation.

H.R. 777 is sponsored by Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY) and co-sponsored by Representatives Mica (FL), Michaud (ME), Rahall (WV), Pingree (ME), Stivers (OH) and Terry (NE). The bill is currently in review in the House Ways and Means Committee.

About The American Distilling Institute

Created in 2003, The American Distilling Institute seeks to promote and protect the art and science of artisanal distilling and to generate greater public awareness and appreciation for the quality and variety of craft spirits. ADI actively promotes economic development and facilitates academic research and educational programs across the United States.