



March 22, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428
Dear Governor Abbott,

On behalf of the membership of the Texas Distilled Spirits Association, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States and the Texas Whiskey Association, we write to ask for your help during this COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, many in our industry rely on tourism to sustain their businesses. To limit exposure to COVID-19, Texas distilleries have closed their tasting rooms and suspended tours. These closures have left distillers in the same difficult position as bars and restaurants.

During this pandemic, Texas distilleries have mobilized to shift production to alcohol-based sanitizers, at significant expense, to supply local first responders at the front lines of the health crises with much needed supplies. While it is hard to admit, this disruption in business —combined with their extra efforts to meet public health demands — will unfortunately leave some of the state's 160+ distilleries unable to recover and forced to close their doors permanently. Closing manufacturing of spirits in Texas would also force the closure of those critical efforts.

To help alleviate the financial burdens created by this unprecedented public health emergency, we urge you to:

- Allow third-party delivery companies to deliver spirits obtained at a Texas distillery directly to consumers;
- Allow distillery employees to directly deliver Texas spirits to consumers; and
- Expand the number of bottles a distiller can sell directly to consumers.

Providing flexibility in the sale and delivery of Texas spirits from a distillery will help distillers maintain cash flow while their tasting rooms are closed.

Texas distillers also seek your help in ensuring that the manufacturing of distilled spirits is not completely shut down during this emergency. Texas distilleries have made adjustments to their operations to ensure the safety of the public and their employees by following CDC, FDA and TTB directives. Forced closure of production will not only affect the distillery, its staff and its customers, but it also will have a negative effect on the farmers, bottle makers, truck drivers, warehouse workers, retailers and countless others who are connected to the spirits industry.

We appreciate the steps you have taken to help other industries navigate this public health emergency and to keep Texans safe. We urge you to take action on the above items to provide critical assistance to Texas distilleries.

Sincerely,



Mike Cameron
President — TDSA
Devils River Whiskey



Dale Syndrowski
Vice President, Government Relations
Distilled Spirits Council of the US



Spencer Whelan
Executive Director — TXWA
CEO - Texas Whiskey Trail