Dear Commissioner Hahn:

We write regarding the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) guidance to manufacturers who are producing hand sanitizer as part of the COVID-19 crisis. As you know, hundreds of distilled spirits producers across the country have immediately responded to the current health crisis by halting their regular operations and quickly turning to the production of hand sanitizer. These distillers are fulfilling a critical need in their communities and providing the hand sanitizer to health care professionals, first responders, and local and state governments. They have diligently followed the guidance released by their regulator, the Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), and are producing hand sanitizer according to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) formula.

Unfortunately, the FDA’s “Temporary Policy for Manufacture of Alcohol for Incorporation Into Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency (COVID-19): Guidance for Industry” does not acknowledge the reality that these distillers have stepped up in a time of crisis to produce hand sanitizer using the alcohol they have readily available, which is undenatured. Undenatured alcohol is food grade alcohol that is compliant with the WHO’s hand sanitizer formula and has the same effectiveness as denatured alcohol. The United States largely differentiates between the two types of alcohol for tax purposes – with undenatured alcohol incurring the distilled spirits Federal Excise Tax (FET) and paid to the federal government.

A provision was included in the recently-passed COVID-relief package that would temporarily remove the Federal Excise Tax on hand sanitizer production as long as the distiller has followed FDA guidance. Through the current guidance, the FDA is standing in the way of hundreds of thousands of gallons of hand sanitizer from being produced and given to those on the front lines battling this pandemic. We have a responsibility to provide more resources to help flatten the
curve and alleviating this burden would allow distilleries the opportunity to step up and help their communities.

We strongly urge the agency to update its guidance to recognize the use of undenatured alcohol in the production of hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 health crisis and work with industry on reasonable safeguards to keep hand sanitizer out of the hands of children. This will ensure distillers do not face a tax bill for filling a vital need in their communities.

Sincerely,

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

[Signature]
Member of Congress
Member of Congress Urging the FDA to Update Guidance on Hand Sanitizer Production

John Yarmuth

Hal Rogers
Brett Guthrie
James Comer
Joe Neguse
Stephen Lynch
Madeleine Dean
Joseph D. Morelle
Jim Cooper
Brendan F. Boyle
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
David Trone
Brian Fitzpatrick
Barbara Lee
Rick Crawford
Troy Balderson
Matt Gaetz
Amrk Modei
Christopher H. Smith
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Derek Kilmer
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Donna E. Shalala
Tom Malinowski
Ami Bera
André Carson
Chellie Pingree
Tony Cárdenas
Mike Bost
Raúl M. Grijalva
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Kathy Castor
Suzan DelBene
Ayanna Pressley
Peter A. DeFazio
Joaquin Castro
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Rick Larsen
Rashida Tlaib
Peter Welch
Alcee L. Hastings
Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.

Andy Barr

Mike Kelly
John Rutherford
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Darren Soto
C.A. Duth Ruppersberger
J. Luis Correa
Ilhan Omar
Anthony Brindisi
Abby Finkenauer
Jennifer Wexton
Kurt Schrader
Colin Allred
French Hill
Mary Gay Scanlon
Jim Hagedorn
John Shimkus
Scott Perry
Vicente Gonzalez
Elaine G. Luria
Cheri Bustos
Warren Davidson
Albio Sires
Abigail D. Spanberger
Collin C. Peterson
Roger Marshall, M.D.
Sylvia R. Garcia
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Gregory W. Meeks
Scott Peters
Brian Higgins
Jackie Speier
Daniel T. Kildee
Dave Loebssack
Thomas R. Suozzi
Nydia M. Velázquez
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
John B. Larson
Matt Cartwright
Bobby L. Rush
Mikie Sherrill
Jahana Hayes
Andy Kim