



**BEER INSTITUTE**

## **WASHINGTON UPDATE**

122 C Street, N.W., Suite 750, Washington, D.C. 20001

[www.beerinstitute.org](http://www.beerinstitute.org)

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**Roll Back-** On March 15, 2005, the Beer Tax Roll Back Legislation, H.R. 1306, was introduced by Congressmen Phil English and Earl Pomeroy in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. Beer Institute staff is actively working with the sponsors of the legislation to increase the co-sponsorship in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress as well as planning to garner many cosponsors during next week's NBWA/BREWERS Joint Legislative Conference. All Beer Institute members are encouraged to contact their Representatives and Senators to request that they become cosponsors of the Beer Tax Rollback legislation. Please contact Rick Goddard, Director, Federal Government Affairs, if you would like more detail or message points to discuss the rollback effort with your federal representatives.

**Illegal Underage Drinking** – On March 14, 2005, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard and Senator DeWine reintroduced companion bills, H.R. 864 and S. 408, the Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Act. This Legislation ended the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress with 18 and 8 total cosponsors respectively. The Beer Institute is committed to working with Congress in reducing and preventing underage drinking and strongly advocates responsible consumption of our members' products. Identical bills to H.R. 864 or S. 408 did not reach the House or Senate floor during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, however, the Beer Institute will continue to monitor these bills during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**Transportation (TEA-21) Reauthorization** – On March 10, 2005, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3, the surface transportation reauthorization act, a bill that would authorize \$283.9 billion for federal-aid highway, mass transit, safety and research programs from fiscal year 2004 to 2009. The funding total includes \$225.5 billion in guaranteed spending for highways, \$52.4 billion for mass transit and other public transportation programs, and \$11.1 billion for members' projects. This legislation has historically included funding for states to combat drunk driving. The bill passed by the House dedicates \$18 billion for all highway safety measures, including drunk driving prevention, safety construction, occupant protection programs, and other safety initiatives. The bill is currently being considered by the Senate. An extension of the current authority for transportation projects lasts through May 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. In the last Congress, the Beer Institute supported continued funding for the safety programs.