

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2024

Director Shalanda Young
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20502

Administrator Richard L. Revesz
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
262 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young and Administrator Revesz,

We are writing this letter to show our support for the Treasury Department's initiative to improve transparency in alcoholic beverage labeling through three regulations (Proposed rules RIN 11513-AC93 and RIN 11513-AC94, and Prerule RIN 11513-AC95) and to urge the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to prioritize reviewing these three rules and release them before the end of this presidential term.

"Empowering all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices" is a key pillar of the Biden-Harris Administration's [National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#), and publishing these rules will be an important part of the administration's legacy.

Many alcoholic beverage labels currently lack certain alcohol content information to help consumers decide which beverages fit their dietary and health needs, and drink in moderation. Unlike nearly all other beverages, foods, and supplements, alcoholic beverages are not required to disclose basic information such as calories, ingredients, and nutritional content. Consumers deserve commonsense health and safety-related educational information to make fully informed decisions.

Excess alcohol consumption is responsible for more than [178,000 deaths per year](#) and costs the U.S. economy [hundreds of billions of dollars](#). Although there are alcoholic beverage companies who voluntarily label their products with alcohol content information like serving size, percent alcohol by volume, and standard drinks per serving and per container, making it a requirement would provide consistency across all types and brands of alcohol. This labeling has the potential to help prevent alcohol-related accidents, diseases, and deaths by assisting consumers with monitoring their alcohol intake and adhering to moderate drinking recommendations.

Alcoholic beverages can contain a wide range of ingredients, many of which are allergens that can present an unacceptable risk to the roughly [11% of U.S. adults](#) living with food allergies. Allergen labeling and full ingredients lists are needed to protect people who are allergic to both major and non-major food allergens and to provide information to consumers who avoid specific ingredients for other reasons such as sensitivities, health conditions, religion, personal preferences, and commitments to vegan or vegetarian diets.

Finally, calorie and nutrition labeling on alcoholic beverages presents an opportunity for improved weight management and chronic disease risk reduction among adults who drink. Alcohol contributes substantially to the average daily energy intake of those who drink (about [9% of daily calories](#), on average). Without labels, consumers [struggle to accurately estimate or compare](#) the calorie content of alcoholic beverages. Calorie labeling on alcoholic beverages could help consumers understand how their alcohol consumption contributes to their daily calorie intake and make decisions to help them stay within their daily calorie limits. Additional nutrition information is also important because alcoholic beverages can contain high amounts of added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium, which are linked to chronic disease.

All of this information should be mandatory, not voluntary, and required on the physical label of each package. A [study](#) looking at labels from the top beer, wine, and spirits brands found that less than a third of beers, only about 12% of spirits products, and not a single wine brand carried the Treasury Department’s voluntary “Serving Facts” label in 2021. Companies should not be allowed to opt out of providing health and safety-related information. Scannable QR codes are not an appropriate alternative to on-package labeling because they place a technological barrier between consumers and health and safety-related information.

We are confident that small businesses will be able to remain profitable while implementing these new labeling requirements. As proof of concept, most hard cider producers must already comply with similar labeling requirements from the Food and Drug Administration, and local and regional hard cider sales [increased by 6%](#) from 2022 to 2023, proving that businesses can comply with labeling requirements while remaining financially viable.

These rules were first slated for release in 2022, per the Treasury Department’s Spring 2022 Unified Agenda, and have been delayed several times. We ask that the administration publish the rules with no further delay.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress