0040117

May 16, 2003

Chief Regulations and Procedures Division Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

RE: TTB Notice No.4

Dear Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

As a member of the retail business community, I am very concerned that TTB Notice No.4 could well be remembered as the point at which TTB launched an offensive aimed at the taste preferences of consumers and the economic interests of business.

Although businesses don't expect the government to pull them out of the economic fires, nor do we expect them to poor gasoline on the burning embers! This is exactly what will happen if these rules changes in the flavored malt beverage market will do if implemented. It will destroy our customer base, reduce our sales, and send our profits plummeting!

That is why I am asking for your support in putting an end to this ridiculous plan to change the content of flavored malt beverages and/or raise the prices on them. With your support, small retailers will remain operational, thousands of jobs will be saved, and millions of dollars in excise taxes will be available to the federal government. Your help in keeping the system fair and working will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carey Walker

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