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Darlene Richardson

May 6, 2003

Chief
Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: TTB Notice Number Four

I recently learned that the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) has proposed new rules (TTB NOTICE NO.4) for the flavored malt beverage industry that will have a devastating impact on my business.

This proposed rules change is a regulatory disaster in the making. Small businesses have been taxed and taxed; and the government is running our mom and pop stores out of business. Now, the government wants to hit us with more regulations and taxes. If the rules in TTB Notice No.4 are allowed, it will either eliminate flavored malt beverages or price it out of existence. This in turn will decrease our customer base and depress our sales.

Stores like ours don't expect the government to bail us out, but neither do we expect them to sink us with unnecessary taxes and heavy regulations. Our economy will never recover if we continue policies that prevent small businesses from growing.

Understandably, the TTB wants to safeguard excise tax revenue. Flavored malt beverage retailers want to prevent our market from being destroyed. Surely there is a compromise solution that could serve both these priorities!

Please oppose this rules change. Your participation in finding a compromise solution would also be deeply appreciated.

Warm Regards,

Darlene Richardson

Texaco T -Mart
Armory, MS. 38821