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CITGO
Devraj Desai
Ashland, VA 23005-2234

RE: TTB NOTICE NUMBER FOUR

May 13, 2003

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

Dear Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

Isn't it clear to you that the government can't collect excise taxes on products that it makes unmarketable? This is exactly what the rules changes proposed for flavored malt beverages would do. They would create an excise tax revenue problem where even the ATF/TTB found none exists. I'm counting on you to see the folly in this and to oppose TTB Notice No.4 until reasonable people can come up with a better version.

Beyond that, the federal government should be focused on cutting down taxes and regulatory burdens that are hurting businesses, consumers and the general economy. This is certainly not the time to be adding to those burdens. That's exactly what the proposed change would do to retailers across the country.

I cannot urge you too strongly to oppose this rules change and support a compromise solution. My business is counting on you.

Sincerely,

Devraj Desai