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Sissy's Liquors  
Mike Hartlage  
Louisville, KY 40214-1658

May 18, 2003

Chief  
Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
P.O. Box 50221  
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221  
RE: TTB Notice No.4  
Dear Sir/Madam:

Believe me, as an independent businessman, I didn't open my store expecting the government to bail us out in hard times, but neither do we expect the government to sink us with more taxes and more regulations. Government should concentrate on reducing, not increasing these burdens, especially in today's weak economy. If you would only read the facts surrounding the controversy over the proposed changes outlined in TTB Notice No.4, you will see the matter can be settled through productive compromise among all the parties involved. Such a compromise could save the flavored malt beverage market from destruction. Right now there are no clear minds working on the issue, and that only hurts the public. That's why we need you. I'm asking you to oppose this rules change, which would penalize small businesses, their customers and their employees. It's bad business for everyone involved.

Sincerely Yours,

Mike Hartlage