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Ricky Haines
Hendersonville, TN 37075-3115

May 17, 2003

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: TTB Notice Number Four

Consumers and businesses all across our country already shoulder a very hefty load of taxes and regulatory liabilities. A responsible government's priority during times like these would be to lighten this load. The proposed Tax & Trade Bureau rules changes for flavored malt beverages would only increase the weight tenfold.

Intentional or not, the proposed rules changes would destroy the flavored malt beverage industry. The TTB claims this is not their intention. If that is the case, then they need to do further research to find out the long-term ramifications of implementing such policies. Upon reviewing those results, they need to place their efforts into finding a compromise that would not endanger the existence of this prosperous industry or the retailers that sell the product line.

Given our current economic climate, it would be highly irresponsible of our government to put regulations into play that would reduce the amount of money flowing into our marketplace. We need to create ways for businesses and industries to thrive. These new regulations for flavored malt beverages would do just the opposite. Please preserve our economy and vote against the proposed rules change.
Sincerely,

Ricky Haines

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