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Howard's Mini Market
Jim Gaines
Ridgecrest, CA 93555-4545

May 8, 2003

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

RE: TTB Notice No.4

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please note my strong disagreement with the TTB's proposed new regulations on the flavored malt beverage industry. These new regulations for flavored malt beverages would hurt my business significantly by eliminating this product line outright or pricing it out of existence. The increased costs will most assuredly be passed on to retailers and my customers. I will definitely lose profits.

I understand the TTB wants to safeguard excise tax revenue while the flavored malt beverage retailers want to prevent our market from being destroyed. Surely there is a compromise solution that could serve both these priorities? I hope one can be reached and soon.

The U.S. economy needs stimulation and momentum. It doesn't need the added regulatory burden these rule changes would create. Your help is urgently needed to see that this proposed rule does not become national policy. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Gaines
Store Manager

