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May 13, 2003

Mertyl Phelps
Snackers
Norlina, NC 27563

RE: TTB NOTICE NUMBER FOUR

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

To Whom It May Concern:

When I read the Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) Notice No.4, I realized what serious trouble my own business could be in if these rules changes take effect. What are our government officials thinking by even proposing new regulations that are both anti-consumer and anti-business? If you go through with this ridiculous plan, you would be depriving consumers of a product they want and irreparably damage a successful business that provides that product. How? By forcing the price of flavored malt beverages to skyrocket, making the totally unaffordable to the common man.

A vast majority of my customers are frequent purchases of such products as Smirnoff Ice. However, most of the time when they come into my store to purchase their favorite flavored malt drink, they also purchase other items as well such as chips, luncheon meats, and milk. If they can no longer afford to purchase flavored malt beverages, then they will stop coming into the store and my sales will plummet. I simply cannot survive if these rules changes are put into effect!

That is why I am seeking your active opposition to the proposed rules change. If you stand against these new regulations, you would help keep small retailers in business. In turn this would save jobs and millions of dollars in excise taxes for the federal government.

I am sure you can see how important it is that you do everything you can to see that these new rules do not become national policy. Reject any regulation that would increase the cost of flavored malt beverages. Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

Mertyl Phelps