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The Junction
George West, TX. 78022-1573

May 9, 2003

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:

RE: TTB Notice Number Four

With all of the trouble that our economy is going through, the last thing the TTB should be considering is more taxes and regulations. In today's times, the government should aim to help the people, not destroy them. The new regulatory plan that the TTB has proposed on flavored malt beverages is not the best way to go. In fact, it's an awful plan that will cause irreparable damage.

For 30 years now the production, marketing and distribution of flavored malt beverages have been controlled by a set of regulations. We have operated quite successfully under these rules, which have been fair to consumer, retailer, and federal government alike. These regulations should not be touched. Why make matters worse for our economy? We don't need new rules.

If you oppose the proposed rule change, you could save a large amount of retail stores whose profit margins would be extremely damaged by an increase in prices on flavored malt beverages. You would also be saving thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in excise taxes for the federal government. The new rules should not be enacted. Too much harm will occur if the TTB is able to have these changes approved.

I would appreciate your thoughts on this issue.

Francis Cannon