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Island Convenience Store

Bob Patrick Summerton, SC 29148-9171

May 12, 2003

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

Dear Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

RE: TTB Notice No.4

Since a large percentage of my business revolves around the sale of flavored malt drinks, I would lose a substantial margin of profit if the TTB imposes new regulations on this product line. Please do not keep taxing the small business people and consumers to the point where they cannot even make a decent living.

Something is fundamentally wrong when big government proposes regulations that would hurt little people who are already struggling. That is EXACTLY that the proposed rules change in the flavored malt beverage market would do if put into action. Consumers, whose hard earned dollars are already stretched thin, would be prevented from buying a product they enjoy. Retailers would lose a cherished and needed customer base and be forced to watch their businesses deteriorate.

Please do not allow any of the aforementioned concerns to become a reality. Reject the TTB's rules change proposals, go back to the drawing board, and find a solution to your concerns that will not ultimately hurt consumers and retailers alike.

Regards,

Bob Patrick