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Rick Randazzo

May 16, 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:

Economic times are rough and jobs are scarce. That is why I am so concerned about the proposed rules changes for flavored malt beverages. Where I work, these beverages supply a great deal of the business revenue; a revenue that if cut, will reduce profits and more then likely force lay-offs. The rules changes as written in TTB's Notice No.4 would have the effect of destroying this product category through forced changes in content or patently unaffordable taxes.

In addition, I feel that these rules changes are prejudicial to one small group, the retailers and consumers of flavored malt beverages. Why should we be singled out to pay higher prices in an attempt to save a federal excise tax that the TTB's own research has proven is NOT endangered by flavored malt beverage sales. Life is tough enough for these people in the current economic climate without the burden of these new rules. Your active opposition to the proposed rules change would help keep small retailers operating efficiently and save thousands of jobs, mine included. In addition it would mean millions of dollars in excise taxes for the federal government. That is why I am asking you to do everything in your power to insure these new regulations never take effect.

Warm Regards,

Rick Randazzo

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