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Thomas Stephens
Mebane, NC 27302-9418

June 6, 2003

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: TTB Notice Number Four

I am writing to express my deep disappointment in the TTB's new policy proposal for the flavored malt beverage industry.

This proposed rules change is a regulatory disaster in the making. We operate a business that depends on sales of flavored malt beverages. The proposed new regulations would sabotage these popular products by making it impossible to produce or too costly to sell. This will cost my business customers, as they will no longer frequent my store if I cannot offer them the products they wish to buy.

Reasonable people disagree. But reasonable people can also understand each other's concerns and reach a productive compromise. I'm sure this can be done in regard to the disagreement over the proposed flavored malt beverage rules. It has to be done, or else an entire industry could disappear leaving the consumers and retailers of flavored malt beverages out in the cold.

I encourage you to avert a disastrous situation by rejecting the current proposal, and I encourage you to support a compromise that would not destroy the flavored malt beverage market.

Sincerely,

Thomas Stephens

Tommy's Mini Mart