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Comment 497

----Original Message----

From: David Blossman

Sent: Friday, August 01, 2003 1:32 PM

To:

Subject: Support of TTB Notice #4

Dear Sirs,

The Abita Brewing Company is a small brewery in Abita Springs, Louisiana. Our sales are in excess of \$ 6,000,000 and employ 34 people. We have been in business since 1986 and have always help the local economy. As it stands today, Abita has been negatively affected by the Flavored Malt Beverages (FMBs). FMBs uses our existing distribution channels, market to the same consumers, and sells on the same retail shelves. FMBs are not malt based products and are not marketed as such. The large Liquor companies simultaneously promote FMB products and there own distilled spirits by fooling the consumer and the taxing authorities. In many markets, FMBs have replaced our products on retail shelves and taken the wholesalers attention off of our product to FMBs. I whole hardily support the TTB Notice #4 and the 90/10 rule.

If you would like to further discuss this matter with me, please call me at . Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, David Blossman President Abita Brewing Company