

0040377

Deborah Spillman

May 12, 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:

I'm an operator of a retail establishment in North Carolina which sells flavored malt beverages like Smirnoff Ice and Mike's Hard Lemonade. I urge you to force the TTB to reconsider their current regulatory proposal on this industry. It is is unfair and could potentially wipe out the industry.

The proposed regulation is motivated by competitive concerns and has not had any real input from those most closely affected by it. Can't we do better? There is something scary about an agency of the federal government proposing rules that guarantee financial hardship for small retailers, many of whom are struggling to survive in the present economic climate.

I'm asking you to oppose this rules change which would penalize small businesses, their customers and their employees. We need your help on this one. I hope you can come through for us.

Warm Regards,

Deborah Spillman

Handi-Cupboard Inc
Cooleemee, NC .27014

