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Tommy's Mini Mart

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Mebane, NC 27302-2321

May 17, 2003

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

Dear Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

RE: TTB Notice No.4

The federal government should be focused on cutting down taxes and regulatory burdens that are hurting businesses, consumers and the general economy. This is certainly not the time to be adding to those burdens.

Unfortunately, the Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau didn't get the memo. The rules changes under consideration would have the effect of destroying flavored malt beverages through forced changes in content or patently unaffordable taxes. This would have a severe negative impact on businesses like ours and the people whose jobs depend on them.

I have no doubt that a compromise is possible that can save the flavored malt beverage industry from destruction by these unintentionally harsh proposed rules changes and still meet TTB's policy concerns. Your opposition to the proposed rules change would help keep small retailers operating, protect thousands of jobs, and save millions of dollars in excise taxes for the federal government.

Please do everything you can to see that these new rules do not become national policy.

Regards,

Louis Scarlett

