

0040267

Capital Heights Mini Mart

May 15, 2003

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

RE: TTB Notice No.4

Dear Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

One of the reasons that "mini-marts" became so popular so fast was due to the ability to provide consumers with desired products like flavored malt beverages for reasonable prices at almost any time of the day. However, the very livelihood of these stores will be negatively impacted by the changes outlined in TTB Notice No. 4. Those changes would have the effect of shutting down this product line by regulatory fiat. That in turn would reduce retailers customer base and, therefore, their revenue intake.

The current proposal is unreasonable. Not only will it not help protect the excise tax receipts, but also it will victimize the very businesses that help collect those receipts. This is just plain bad economics in practice. Certainly there must be a way that a reasonable compromise can be met between the TTB and the flavored malt beverage industry that would not have such ruinous affects on retailers and consumers.

That is what.I am urging you to do. Please set aside this destructive rules change and work out a fair compromise. Stop attacking the retailers who help support the entire nations economy.

Sincerely,

Max Lail

Max Lail
Montgomery, AL .36107-1229