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Q-Gas
Florence, AL 35630-2908

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

To Whom It May Concern:

As a working member of the retail community, I cannot believe that the TTB is proposing new regulations that will either eliminate flavored malt beverages from store shelves, or tax it to the point where consumers cannot even afford to purchase it. One of the greatest obstacles to our economic recover is America's excessive taxes and business regulations! Now here you go, proposing rules changes concerning flavored malt beverages that would only make that obstacle bigger.

Have you even considered the damage this rule change would do to our business? Believe me it goes well beyond the loss in sales of flavored malt beverages. If enacted, these new regulations would cost us a base of customers who come to us primarily for these beverages and buy other products as well. We will be forced to watch, helplessly, as are sales plummet and profits dwindle. Retailers are struggling as it is, we don't need one more impediment to success.

That is why I am hoping you will oppose this rules change. It is unfair to penalize small businesses, their customers and their employees simply because they sell a legal product, namely flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

