

0040278

William C. Thomas  
Gardendale; AL 35071

RE: TTB NOTICE NUMBER FOUR

May 15, 2003

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is a sure sign of fiscal irresponsibility on the part of the TTB to try to enforce new regulations on flavored malt beverages that would be so extremely detrimental to the retail community. Do you even realize that the people who own or work in stores where these beverages are sold would be victimized by the changes outlined in TTB Notice No. 4? By taking these actions you would effectively be shutting this product line down by regulatory design. You would be harming retailers' profits and possibly putting people out of work!

It is grossly unfair to place a substantial part of the tax or regulatory burden on one particular industry, namely flavored malt beverages. The consumers of these products form a large percentage of our customer base, abase we cannot afford to have tampered with by our own government officials. That is why I hope that the basic misunderstanding between TTB and the flavored malt beverage industry has not gone so far that it cannot be corrected if both sides are willing to compromise. The welfare of our economy is at stake.

For everyone's sake, from the consumer to the government, I ask that you reject these rules changes. It is time to support compromise, not regulation. Thank you for reading my concerns. I hope you will take them to heart.

Sincerely Yours,

William C. Thomas

Gardendale Chevron Inc.