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By-Pass Liquor
Bill Striplin
Fayetteville, AR 72701-7935

May 14, 2003

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

RE: TTB Notice No.4

Dear Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

What is the TTB thinking with its proposed rules change regarding flavored malt beverages? They already know that sales of flavored malt beverages are no threat to government tax revenues. They almost certainly know how much we small retailers depend on the revenue generated by such sales, as well as the additional sales we gain from impromptu purchases by flavored malt beverage consumers.

The TTB also has to know that the proposed regulations would drive the price up to the point that people won't pay it, and that the market will vanish very quickly. This is the perfect example why the government shouldn't target specific consumer groups for additional taxes every time they need to generate a little extra cash. Hard-working people who enjoy a beer or flavored malt beverage after work or on the weekends are not going to pay exorbitant prices for such things.

The cost of this proposed rules change is far too high, and too far-reaching in its impact. An alternative must be found that is reasonable, fair and not a threat to small businesses in this country. Please oppose this rules change. We can't afford it.

Sincerely Yours,

Bill Striplin