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John's Package Store
Florence, AL 35630-5317

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 Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

The new regulations being proposed by the TTB in reference to flavored malt beverages would virtually destroy this product line via forced changes in the content of these drinks or in excessive taxes. It would most assuredly decrease the sales of flavored malt drinks in my store, and this would have a severe negative impact not only on my profits but on my employees as well.

The recent economic downslide has made it very difficult to remain competitive and keep my doors open. Oppressive taxation and legislation, now being considered for an industry whose product provides me with a great deal of sales, would virtually be my undoing. I am aware that this rules change is an effort for the TTB to protect excise tax receipts. However, exactly how will the loss of sales and the closure of businesses do that? It won't.

That is why I feel it imperative that you reject these proposed changes. Not only would you help insure that retailers continue to operate, but you would also be saving jobs. This will only add millions of dollars in excise taxes, not decrease them. Please reject this extremely destructive policy.

Sincerely,

John Patel