

Greg Artz

May 17, 2003

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

RE: TTB Notice No. 4

Dear Sir/Madam:

Small business owners, such as myself, have had enough of our government increasing taxes and adding new regulations to products, which are the backbone of our businesses. That is why TTB Notice No. 4 is such an affront to business people and consumers. The policy change it outlines would harm both by increasing prices and altering the content of flavored malt beverages. Customers would find the product unaffordable, and retailers would lose much needed revenue. Clearly these rules changes would benefit no one, not even the federal government!

For well over 30 years now, consumers and retailers have done well by the regulations already in place for flavored malt beverages. Even the federal tax authorities have garnered their fair of the revenue from the sale of this product. That is why I can see absolutely no need to add to the regulatory requirements this industry is already meeting. The system is not broken, so stop trying to fix it!

If the TTB is truly concerned about protecting its excise tax revenue, then they need to rescind TTB Notice No. 4. Enactment of this policy would only have disastrous overtones for the entire country.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Warm Regards,

Greg Artz

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