

0040018

Skip Banyas  
Carthage, MS 39051-4223

May 17, 2003

Chief  
Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
P.O. Box 50221  
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: TTB Notice Number Four

Small convenience stores would be the ultimate victims in the battle between the flavored malt beverage industry and the TTB. Even the very rules changes, as proposed by the TTB are both anti-consumer and anti-business. If placed to effect, these new regulations would be responsible for depriving customers of a product they want and are legally able to purchase by making it cost prohibitive. The new regulations would irreparably damage a successful retail industry by eroding a customer base that provides a substantial amount of its revenue. This is NOT good economic sense.

Instead of enacting policies that would literally destroy our nation's economic backbone, the TTB should be guided by their own earlier research that flavored malt beverages do not diminish the excise tax revenues of the federal government. However, the rules changes now being proposed would not only cut into that very same excise tax, but would destroy a successful niche market in the process. Have you even considered what this would mean in lost jobs and government revenue?

Think before you act and prevent these rules changes in flavored malt beverages from being enacted. The retailers and consumers of our country have been taxed to the point of breaking. Our wallets and tills are empty; we simply have no more to give.

Sincerely,  
Skip Banyas

P.S. Please spend the taxes you collect in a wiser manner.  
Jr Food Mart