

SPACE LIQUOR
HOUSTON, TX .77090

RE: TTB NOTICE NUMBER FOUR

May 6, 2003

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

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with dismay that I write to you regarding TTB Notice Number 4. If this proposed rules change is passed, it will devastate the flavored malt beverage industry and cause irreparable harm to small retailers.

First, the hefty regulations and harsh taxes dictated in this proposed rule are unnecessary. The current rules have been in place for 30 years and have worked well. We do not need the government heaping more taxes and regulations on us. Second, any retailer will tell you that killing a popular product category like flavored malt beverages will depress sales in general as the base of good customers attracted to stores for these products inevitably falls off. Our business can't afford this!

The proposed TTB changes are a financial slap in the face to hard-working people who put in long hours for modest returns just to keep their local retail stores going. I'm sure this wasn't the TTB's intent, but it would be the net result.

Furthermore, economic growth won't be encouraged by slapping a small but successful industry with rules changes that would put it out of business. Please do everything possible to resist this rules change and work out a reasonable compromise.

Sincerely yours,

Veyovouth Lach

