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Cousins Super-C
Brownwood, TX .76803-3038

May 12, 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:

RE: TTB Notice Number Four

I wish to express my concern over the rules that have been proposed and outlined in Notice No.4 by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. These rules, as I understand them, would severely limit the ability of retail stores to sell these products unless the flavored malt beverage industry alters the alcohol contents. As a retail owner I would be opposed to these new rules and request the ATTB work to remove such a requirement.

In my time examining the new proposal I have yet to find a rational reason for a new set of rules for the flavored malt beverage industry. In 30 years of regulation there has been no real problems and nothing to justify a full re-write of these rules. It seems that the ATTB is re-working these rules to increase the excise tax on these products without ever formally proposing a tax increase. If this were the case, it comes on the backs of local retailers who can ill afford another blow to their sales.

I would request that the ATTB please remove these newly proposed rules. Retailers should not have to pay the price for a tax increase that no one supports and few would ever want. Thank you.

I would appreciate your thoughts on this issue.

