Mark Posey Arab, AL 35016-1069

May 16, 2003

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

Dear Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

RE: TTB Notice No.4

I am sure that you did hot decide to become a government official because you expected small businesses to bail you out of deficit difficulties? Well, businesses like ours don't expect the government to bail us out of our financial difficulties either. However, we do not expect, nor will be tolerate the government's attempts to bury us under a heap of excessive taxes and business regulations. That is why I am writing to you today to vehemently oppose the proposed rules changes for flavored malt beverages. It is time that our government started concentrating on reducing, not increasing these burdens. That is the only sure way to jump-start our depressed economy.

Small retailers must work long hours just to scare up a modest profit. While working hard, they help to provide jobs for local workers and pay taxes into state and federal coffers. Why would you even want to deny them the modest revenue they get from the sales of flavored malt beverages? Have you seriously considered what will happen to your excise tax receipts if retailers lose significant sales because of these rules changes? It. does not take a degree in economics to realize that slapping a small but successful industry with rules changes that would put it out of business cannot heal our economy. That is why I ask you to do everything possible to resist these new regulations to the flavored malt beverage market.

Regards,

Mark Posey