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Abram's Liquor Store

Joseph Abram  
Georgetown, SC 29440-5334

May 13, 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

America's excessive taxes and business regulations represent our biggest obstacle to economic recovery. The proposed rules changes concerning flavored malt beverages would only make that obstacle bigger. As the owner of a retail store, I disagree with any attempt at increasing taxes, particularly on an item that represents a huge part of my customer base. If you go through with these rules changes you will effectively lower sales and destroy businesses across the country.

Instead of making new rules that would take a bite out of excise tax revenue, the TTB should be guided by the earlier research that flavored malt beverages do NOT diminish the excise tax revenues of the federal government. The proposed new rules would not only cut into excise tax revenue, but also kill a successful niche market in the process.

With everyone's wallets stretched thin, the one thing our country's economy does not need is the burden of added regulatory taxes. Please reject the rules changes regarding flavored malt beverages and protect the consumers and retailers whom you are supposed to help. Thank you.

Regards,

Joseph Abram