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Mike Maddox  
4401 San Mateo Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109-2058

RE: TTB NOTICE NUMBER FOUR

May 14, 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:

Small retail markets and businesses have been slammed over the past couple of years. With the loss of many of our customers, due to job layoffs and a slow economy in general, we have had to weather a storm that is not yet over. That is why rules, such as those outlined in Notice Number 4, hit so hard and should be opposed.

As a retailer who relies on sales of flavored malt beverages, I am upset that the TTB would attempt to reclassify these drinks and squeeze more taxes out of them. Not only does this policy harm everyday consumers, but it also harms retail stores like mine where these products will no longer be able to be sold. This is all assuming that the flavored malt beverage industry even finds it profitable to make such products after the new taxes are slapped on.

I would respectfully ask that you defeat the rules in Notice Number 4. Please ensure that consumers are not priced out of buying flavored malt beverages or denied the ability to buy them at a local retail store. The harm to my business as well as the harm to consumers would be extremely unfair given the little justification that has been given for changing the rules. Thank you very much.

Sincerely Yours,

Mike Maddox

Montgomery Chevron