

BERNICE MARTIN MATHEWS

SENATOR

Washoe No. 1

ASSISTANT MINORITY FLOOR LEADER

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Frank W. Foote, Director
Regulations and Rulings Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
U.S. Department of the Treasury
P.O. Box 14412
Washington, D.C. 20044-4412

Dear Mr. Foote:

Under the regulations of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), most beer, wine, and distilled spirits labels may not provide consumers with basic meaningful information as to the content of the product. In contrast, most food packages, soft drink containers, over-the-counter drugs labels, and even dietary supplement labels provide consumers with basic information on the label. Alcoholic beverages (with some exceptions) are the only major class of consumable goods that do not provide important information on the label, such as serving size, alcohol content per serving, calories, fat and protein per serving, as well as allergens and ingredients. Furthermore, existing labeling requirements for beer, wine, and spirits are so disparate, they promote consumer confusion.

I believe providing basic consumer information is necessary so that consumers may make informed choices about what and how much to drink. Caloric information per serving is important to anyone who is watching his or her diet. In addition, the amount of alcohol per serving is important to anyone trying to monitor his or her alcohol intake.

I urge the TTB to act expeditiously to adopt a regulation that permits meaningful consumer-oriented serving facts on beer, wine, and spirits labels. In the meantime, I urge TTB to allow manufacturers to provide this kind of truthful, straightforward information on labels on a voluntary basis while the rulemaking process proceeds.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bernice Mathews in cursive.

Bernice Mathews
Nevada State Senator

BM/st:W57630-1

- cc: U. S. Senator John Ensign
- U. S. Senator Harry Reid
- U. S. Representative Shelley Berkley
- U.S. Representative Jim Gibbons
- U.S. Representative Jon C. Porter, Sr.