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Ventana Chevron
Ray Oakden
Tucson, AZ 85750-0831

May 14, 2003
Chief
Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

RE: TTB Notice No.4

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are already over regulated and overtaxed on virtually everything. Now would be a good time to put an end to overregulation and overtaxing, rather than increasing both through policy changes like those proposed for flavored malt beverages.

We don't need what these rule changes will do to us. Small businesses will not be able to absorb the higher tax, which means it has to be passed on to the customer. In the current economic climate, however, the customer isn't going to be able or willing to absorb that cost either. That means that the flavored malt beverage market dries up. And for the many retailers who depend on this significant revenue stream, that means the whole business dries up right along with that market.

Please do not allow us to be further burdened with taxes and regulations. Please reject the proposed rules changes. I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely Yours,
Ray Oakden

