



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

ALGIE T. HOWELL, JR.  
POST OFFICE BOX 12865  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23541

August 26, 2006

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.  
GENERAL LAWS  
HEALTH, WELFARE AND  
INSTITUTIONS  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NINETIETH DISTRICT

Mr. William H. Foster  
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
**Attention: Notice No. 41**  
P.O. Box 14412  
Washington, DC 20044-4412

Dear Mr. Foster,

As a member of the General Laws Committee of the Virginia House of Delegates, with oversight responsibility for the alcoholic beverage control system in Virginia, I urge you to support the long-standing federal policy of using the percent alcohol by volume, or proof, as the only appropriate way to describe alcohol content.

I am aware of efforts to include "standard serving" information of the amount of pure alcohol on labels or advertising. Virginia has a long-standing policy of differentiating between distilled spirits and beer and wine. Any effort to include "standard serving" information on labels of hard liquor will distort those differences and consumer understanding of how much alcohol is actually contained in a variety of size and strength mixed beverages.

There is no "standard serving" of hard liquor. It comes in many strengths and mixtures and hard liquor drinks can vary dramatically in alcohol content based on the brand used, the recipe and the individual pouring.

Virginians deserve meaningful labeling. In that regard, I hope the TTB will maintain percent alcohol as the standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Algie T. Howell, Jr.".

Algie T. Howell, Jr.