

# SENATE OF VIRGINIA



EMMETT W. HANGER, JR.

24TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

ALL OF AUGUSTA, GREENE, AND HIGHLAND  
COUNTIES; ALL OF THE CITIES OF LEXINGTON,  
STAUNTON, AND WAYNESBORO; AND PART OF  
ALBEMARLE, ROCKBRIDGE, AND ROCKINGHAM COUNTIES

POST OFFICE BOX 2  
MT. SOLON, VIRGINIA 22843

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL  
SERVICES, CHAIR  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
FINANCE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
RULES

September 1, 2005

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reference to Notice No. 41 seeking public comment on whether additional requirements should be added to current alcohol labels. I strongly 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.

As Chairman of the Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee in the Senate of Virginia, with oversight responsibility for the alcoholic beverage control system in Virginia, I am concerned that efforts to include "standard serving" information on labels of hard liquor will undermine the balance Virginia has struck in regulating distilled spirits, beer, and wine. Adoption of such a proposal will have a negative impact on current state law and regulation.

I do not believe consumers will benefit from the "standard serving" language. While "serving size" is fairly common for beer, it varies widely for hard liquor. Alcohol content in a bottle of beer is certain, but this is simply not the case for a Long Island Iced Tea when a bartender could pour by sight or by the jigger (not to mention other variances such as glass size or a friendly bar-keep with a heavy hand).

I hope you will keep these concerns hi mind as you consider changes to federal labeling regulations and I appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,

Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Emmett Hanger, Jr.", written over a light-colored background.

EWH/hwh