

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

FREDERICK M. QUAYLE
13r, SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF SURRY COUNTY, PART OF ISLE OF WIGHT,
PRINCE GEORGE, AND SOUTHAMPTON COUNTIES,
AND PART OF THE CITIES OF CHESAPEAKE,
FRANKLIN, HOPEWELL, PORTSMOUTH, AND SUFFOLK
3808 POPLAR HILL ROAD, SUITE E
CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 23321



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHAIR
COURTS OF JUSTICE
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
FINANCE
RULES

SENATE

September 6, 2005

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

Dear Chief Foster:

As a member of the Courts of Justice Committee of the Senate of Virginia, which oversees policy development and penalties for violations of alcohol laws 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 that the TTB will maintain percent alcohol by volume as the standard.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. M. Quayle", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Frederick M. Quayle

FMQ/mk