



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

G. GLENN ODER
POST OFFICE BOX 6161
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA 23606

NINETY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
GENERAL LAWS
TRANSPORTATION
COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS

September 7, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Foster:

I write today to urge your support for the long-standing federal policy of using the percent alcohol by volume, or proof, as the only appropriate way to describe alcohol content.

As you may know, I serve on the General Laws Committee of the Virginia General Assembly and I recently learned of the effort to include the amount of alcohol in standard serving information on labels or advertising. Virginia's *has* a long history of differentiating between distilled spirits and beer and wine. The current policy is one that consumers are used to and understand. I am concerned that the inclusion of standard serving information on hard liquor labels might blur the present distinction and leave consumers without a clear understanding of the amount of alcohol in their drink.

Another concern I have is the establishment of an accurate standard serving for hard liquor. There is a great deal of variation in hard liquor since it comes in many strengths and mixtures. It even varies greatly among different brands.

It is my hope that the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau will continue the percent alcohol by volume standard and preserve meaningful labeling in Virginia.

Sincerely,

G. Glenn Oder, ASLA