

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

LINDA T. PULLER
36, SENATORIAL DISTRICT
PART OF FAIRFAX AND
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

August 29, 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:

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, and a member of the Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, 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 Treasury Department's Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) will maintain percent alcohol by volume as the standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Puller".

Linda T. Puller