



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

MELANIE L. RAPP  
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NINETY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
EDUCATION  
GENERAL LAWS

September 12, 2005

Mr. William H. Foster  
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
Attention: Notice #41  
P.O. Box 14412  
Washington, DC 20044-4412

Dear Mr. Foster:

I am a member of the Virginia House of Delegates serving the 96<sup>th</sup> District, and I am writing you to 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 labeling and advertising, however, 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 only serve to distort those differences and consumer understanding of how much alcohol is actually contained in a variety of size and strength mixed beverages.

It is my belief that we can serve Virginians better with clear and meaningful labeling. As a delegate charged with oversight responsibility for the alcoholic beverage control system in Virginia, I cannot in good conscience endorse a policy that I believe may cause consumers to either mistake the amount of alcohol they may be consuming or possibly confuse them with obscure labeling. In that regard, please consider maintaining the percent alcohol by volume as the standard.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me at (757) 886.1000 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie L. Rapp  
Delegate, 96<sup>th</sup> District  
Virginia House of Delegates

MLR/kh