



WILLIAM J. LARKIN, JR.
SENATOR, 39TH DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN
MAJORITY STEERING COMMITTEE

PLEASE RESPOND TO:
L ROOM 612
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2770

1093 LITTLE BRITAIN ROAD
NEW WINDSOR, NY 12553
(845) 567-1270

INTERNET ADDRESS:
LARKIN@SENATE.STATE.NY.US

WEB ADDRESS
WWW.SENATORBILLLARKIN.COM

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

August 30, 2005

CHAIRMAN
RACING, GAMING &
WAGERING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& SMALL BUSINESS

ELECTIONS

FINANCE

HEALTH

INSURANCE

TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY &
MILITARY AFFAIRS

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

Dear Mr. Foster:

It has come to my attention that federal action is currently pending in relation to the labeling of alcoholic beverages. According to my information, the Treasury Department's Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), the federal regulatory agency for alcohol beverages, has released an Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) that would solicit input from parties with respect to the alcohol beverage labeling practice. I have learned that this ANPRM concerns the changing of alcohol information on labels from the existing percentage of alcohol to a generalized "standard serving" information in relation to pure alcohol content.

I would like to inform you that I agree with the concerns and opposition expressed by various parties that have contacted me. I am against the changing of the current percentage of pure alcohol listing to a more "standard serving" listing. This change would generalize the differences in alcohol strength, effect and concentration in various alcoholic products while also being misleading to the public, which could significantly contribute to an increase in irresponsible drinking. Therefore, I support the existing measures of listing the percentage of alcohol by volume instead of the proposed "standard serving" change.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If I can be of further assistance in this matter or you require any additional information please feel free to contact my Albany office.

Sincerely,

William J. Larkin, Jr.
State Senator

WJL/mms