



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

BRADLEY P. MARRS
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August 31, 2005

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE
COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS
HEALTH, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS

SIXTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

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

Dear Mr. Foster,

I am a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, and of that body's Courts of Justice Committee, which oversees policy development and penalties for violations of our state alcohol laws. I am writing to urge you to support continuing the long-standing federal policy of using the percent alcohol by volume, or proof, as the only appropriate way to describe alcohol content.

I have learned of efforts to include "standard serving" information on labels or advertising. Virginia has long differentiated between distilled spirits on the one hand, and beer and wine on the other. Any effort to include "standard serving" information on labels of hard liquor will blur the differences between those two categories, leading to consumer confusion over how much alcohol is actually contained in various beverages.

There is no "standard serving" of hard liquor. Hard liquor drinks can vary dramatically in alcohol content based on the brand used, the recipe, and the individual bartender.

For these reasons, I hope you will maintain percent alcohol by volume as the standard.

Sincerely,



Brad Marrs

BPM/