

estate of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 3700
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

July 7, 2005

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,

Under current TTB regulations, most alcoholic beverage labels may not provide consumers with basic ingredient or nutrition information. I understand TTB is seeking public comment on proposed changes for these regulations.

Alcoholic beverages (with some exceptions) are the only major class of consumable goods that does not provide important information on the label, such as serving size, amount of alcohol per serving, calories, fat and protein per serving, as well as allergens and ingredients. Most other food packages, soft drink containers, over-the-counter drugs, and even dietary supplements provide consumers with basic consumer information on the label.

Nutrition and ingredient labeling of alcoholic beverages allow consumers to make more informed comparisons between products and understand standard serving sizes. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services provide Dietary Guidelines that define a standard serving size of alcohol as 12 ounces of regular beer, 5 ounces of wine, and 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits (USDA & HHS, 2005). Without such basic consumer serving facts on the label of an alcoholic

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 3700
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

beverage, in addition to nutrition and ingredient information, consumers are denied information pertinent to maintaining a healthy diet.

I urge TTB to act expeditiously to adopt a regulation that permits meaningful consumer-oriented Serving Facts on beer, wine, and spirits labels. Meanwhile, I urge TTB to allow manufacturers to voluntarily provide this information on labels while the rulemaking process proceeds.

Sincerely,

Representative Cameron C. Staples, 96th AD