



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

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TWENTIETH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
GENERAL LAWS
TRANSPORTATION
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

29 August 2005

William H. Foster, Chief
Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau
ATTN: Notice No. 41
PO BOX 14412
Washington, DC 20044-4412

Dear Mr. Foster,

As a member of the ABC-Gaming Subcommittee of the General Laws Committee of the Virginia House of Delegates, 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 in 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 TTB will maintain percent alcohol by volume as the standard.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Chris Saxman