



**\* M e of Connecticut**

**SENATE**

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR DAVID J. CAPPIELLO**  
TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

**TELEPHONE**

TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1421  
FAX: (860) 240-8306

**E-MAIL**

David.Cappiello@cga.ct.gov

**DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

June 28, 2005

Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division  
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau  
ATTN: Notice No. 41  
P.O. Box 14412  
Washington DC 20044-4412

Dear Chief:

Under your regulations, most beer, wine and distilled spirits labels may not provide consumers with basic meaningful information as to what is in the product.

Most food packages, soft drink containers, over-the-counter drugs, and even dietary supplements provide consumers with basic consumer information on the label. Alcohol 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, alcohol per serving, calories, fat and protein per serving, as well as allergens and ingredients.

Existing label requirements for beer, wine and spirits are currently so disparate as to promote consumer confusion. Because of this confusion and lack of information available to consumers, I felt it was important as the Senate Ranking member of the General Law Committee to introduce a bill during Connecticut's 2005 legislative session, to deal with this very issue. The proposed bill would have required makers of alcoholic beverages to place nutrition labels on their products. Unfortunately, due to lack of time it was never taken up for a vote.

I plan to continue my efforts towards making nutrition labels required because I believe providing basic consumer information is necessary so that consumers may make informed choices about what to drink and how much to drink. Caloric information per serving is important to anyone who is watching his or her diet. Alcohol per serving should be important to anyone trying to monitor his or her alcohol intake.

I urge FT'B to act expeditiously to adopt a regulation that permits meaningful consumer-oriented Serving Facts on beer, wine, spirits labels. Meanwhile, I urge FT'B to allow manufacturers to voluntarily provide this kind of truthful, non-misleading information on labels while the rulemaking process proceeds.

Sincerely,  


David J. Cappiello Deputy  
Minority Leader

Suite 2700 \* Legislative Office Building \* Hartford, CT 06106-1591 \* (860) 240-8800 \* Fax (860) 240-8306