

# SENATE OF VIRGINIA

J. BRANDON BELL, II  
22ND SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
ALL OF BOTETOURT COUNTY.  
ALL OF THE CITIES OF RADFORD AND SALEM, AND  
PART OF MONTGOMERY AND ROANOKE COUNTIES  
POST OFFICE BOX 20855  
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24018



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
GENERAL LAWS  
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
TRANSPORTATION

August 30, 2005

Mr. William H. Foster  
Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division  
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau  
Attn: Notice Number 41  
PO Box 14412  
Washington, DC 20044-4412

Dear Mr. Foster:

As a member of the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, 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 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Brandon Bell".

J. Brandon Bell