



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

ONZLEE WARE

SHENANDOAH BUILDING, SUITE 410
305 FIRST STREET, S.W.,
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24011

ELEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE
EDUCATION
COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS

August 26, 2005

Mr. William H. Foster
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
ATTN: Notice No. 41
Post Office Box 14412
Washington, DC 20044-4412

Dear Mr. Foster,

As a member of the Courts of Justice Committee of the Virginia House of Delegates, which oversees policy development and penalties for violations of alcohol laws 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 efforts 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 TBB will maintain percent alcohol by volume as the standard. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Onzlee Ware
Member, Virginia House of Delegates

OW/fwh