



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

S. CHRIS JONES
POST OFFICE BOX 5059
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA 23435-0059

SEVENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

September 19, 2005

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS (VICE CHAIRMAN)
GENERAL LAWS
APPROPRIATIONS
RULES

Mr. William H. Foster, Chief
Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
Attention: Notice No. 41
P. O. Box 14412
Washington, DC 20044

Dear Chief Foster,

As a member 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 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 beverage.

There is no standard serving of hard liquor. It comes in many strengths and mixtures and 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 that the bureau will maintain percent alcohol by volume as the standard. Do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

S. Chris Jones

SCJ/scc