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**SCOTT HUMMEL**  
CHAIR OF APPROPRIATIONS

September 6, 2005

Mr. William H. Foster  
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
Regulations and Procedures Division  
PO Box 14412  
Washington, DC 20044-4412

Re: Notice No. 41

Dear Mr. Foster:

Recently, it was brought to my attention that the bureau is considering changes to requirements for alcohol product labeling. I write to oppose these efforts and believe they send an alarming message to consumers by implying that "all alcohol beverages are equal." Specifically, I am concerned about the clear communication of alcohol content for hard liquor compared to beer and wine. The current policy of clearly defining the percent of alcohol by volume or proof is a much more precise disclosure to consumers. Even the most responsible drinkers could be confused by an advertisement or label containing a "standard serving" size.

The 1998 Liquor Control Act differentiates the licensing and sale of package liquor from beer and wine. As a matter of public policy, it has been determined that significant differences exist between hard liquor and those with minimal alcohol content. I believe the revision of labeling guidelines would create a more relaxed acceptance of hard liquor and eventually generate liability concerns from those who serve and sell under either licensure.

I recognize that review of all areas of public policy can be beneficial as circumstances and technology change common business and home practices. In this circumstance, however, there is no change in the alcohol content of the products and no change in the effect these substances have on the safety and welfare of our citizens. Therefore, I encourage you to maintain the current system of identifying true alcohol content.

Sincerely,

Scott Hummel  
State Representative, 93<sup>rd</sup> District