

SENATE OF VIRGINIA



WALTER A. STOSCH

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
12TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
PART OF GOOCHLAND AND HENRICO COUNTIES,
AND PART OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
INNSBROOK CENTRE
4551 COX ROAD, SUITE 110
GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA 23060-6740

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
GENERAL LAWS, CHAIR
COMMERCE AND LABOR
FINANCE
RULES

September 14, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Foster:

As Majority Leader of the Senate of Virginia and Chairman of the Senate General Laws Committee, 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.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter Stosch".

Walter A. Stosch
Senate Majority Leader