

# Made and Bottled in Kentucky

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January 10, 2009

Danielle Elks, Executive Director  
Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission  
226 Capitol Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37219-1084

Dear Director Elks:

I have followed with interest the story of the large collection of Jack Daniel's whiskey confiscated in October of 2007, through the recent settlement with the owner of the collection, Randy Piper, as reported in *The Tennessean* on January 7.

What the January 7<sup>th</sup> article seemed to lack was a statement from your office about how the people of Tennessee, especially those citizens who engage in the hobby of whiskey collecting, should comport themselves in the future in light of this case and its resolution. How should the settlement decision be interpreted? Are you, for example, saying that although the law remains in effect that it is illegal to sell alcohol without a license, the ABC will not treat the sale of collectible bottles whose contents are considered 'incidental' as the illegal sale of alcohol?

In light of this widely publicized settlement, the public is entitled to look to the ABC for guidance in this matter. What is the message that the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission wants Tennessee citizens to take away from this incident?

I am a writer who writes about, among other things, distilled spirits and more specifically American-made whiskey. My work is read by the whiskey enthusiast community, many of whom are collectors. I am also an attorney, and am reasonably well versed in the laws regulating alcoholic beverages.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Charles K. Cowdery

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**Charles K. Cowdery, Proprietor**