

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP
ROBERT J. SMITH
ASSEMBLYMAN, 4TH DISTRICT
PARTS OF CAMDEN AND GLOUCESTER COUNTIES
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ATLANTIC STATES MARINE
FISHERIES COMMISSION

August 8, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the Assemblyman for the Fourth Legislative District in the State of New Jersey, I am writing to express my support for the U. S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. (2001R-136P)

If adopted, the standard will maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectations for consistent products, and help sustain the long-term development of the product category. In addition, these reformulated products will be consistent with state tax, license, and distribution laws allowing wholesalers and retailers to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today.

While there are some who have concerns regarding the ability of manufacturers to produce FMB products in accordance with the new proposal, as you may know, brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical ability to brew these products under the new federal standard. The FMB products that look and taste the same will be available to wholesalers and retailers in all states with no interruption and no discernable taste differences for consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my support for the current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Smith
Assemblyman, Fourth District

