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From: Kent Porter [kporter@well.com]  
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 7:30 AM  
To: nprm@ttb.gov  
Subject: In support of TTB Notice No. 4

10-16-2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division Tax and Trade Bureau PO Box 50221 Washington, D.C. 20031-0221 RE: TTB Notice #4, Flavored Malt Beverages and Related Proposals (2001R-136P) Dear Sir or Madam: I support the proposed regulations for products marketed as flavored malt beverages (FMBs), as set forth by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) in TTB Notice No. 4 of March 2003. Beer has malt flavor and hop bitterness, flavor and aroma. FMBs display none of these characteristics, and should not be considered beer by any definition. The Beer Judge Certification Program, which sets parameters for beer evaluation and style, has not recognized FMBs as a beer style for any of the competitions they sanction.

To consider FMBs as beer is a threat to beer culture in the United States, and would be damaging to the businesses of the large and small brewers around the country.

I support the proposed "0.5% standard" for FMBs in order to preserve beer culture and to defend the image of what the general public considers beer.

Sincerely,