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ROBERT W. WIRCH STATE SENATOR TWENTY SECOND DISTRICT

August 21, 2003

Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau PO Box 50221 Washington, D. C. 2009 1-0221

Attn: Notice No. 4

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this as a letter of my support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed mlemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001-136P).

In clarifying that any product sold, marketed and taxed as a malt beverage product must be made according to traditional brewing methods and processes, the proposed 0.5% standard ensures the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace. This consistent standard will allow wholesalers and retailers to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today. The flavored malt beverage 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 express my support for the current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely

ROBERT W. BIRCH State Senator

22nd District

RWW/e

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