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KEN BENNETT
District 1

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
FORTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Arizona State Senate

August 19, 2003

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to encourage your support of the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade formally proposed new standard for the composition of flavored malt beverages (FMB's). If the March 2003 proposal, is adopted it will permit the addition of flavorings and other material containing alcohol to malt beverage products only if the alcohol from such materials constitutes less than 0.5% by volume of finished product. The new rule would require all flavored malt beverages to be made according to traditional brewing methods and processes.

The proposed "0.5% flavored malt beverage standard" is based on longstanding federal and state statutes and regulations designed to properly identify products for the benefit of consumers and to protect government revenues.

Absent a national standard based in existing law and regulation, manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers face a potential for a patchwork of individual state laws and regulation. Please join me in support the 0.5 standard for flavored malt beverages. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

KEN BENNETT
Senate President

KB/jy

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