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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3306

August 19, 2003

Chief Regulations/Procedures Division

U.S. Treasury Department

Tax and Trade Bureau

P.O. Box 50221

Washington, D.C. 20091

Attention: Notice 4

Dear Friend:

I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Treasury's Tax and Trade Bureau

proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001R-136P).

By 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. Further, 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 the opportunity to offer my support for the current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

HOWARD COBLE  
Member of Congress

HC:as

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