

<< 0040871 >>

Fax to: 202/927-8525

2 Bridle Place
East Greenbush, NY 12061

August 25, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091.0221

Subject:TTB NoticeNo.4

Dear Sir or Madam: •

I support the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. (2001R-136P)

This is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories designed to maintain an orderly US marketplace. When adopted, the standard will also provide criteria to meet consumer expectations for consistent products, and help sustain the long-term development of the flavored malt beverage 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.

Failing to adopt a national standard would create a patchwork of individual state laws and regulations where the same product may ultimately be sold as a "beer" in one state and as a "distilled spirits" in another. As an adult consumer of these products, I contend that that would be burdensome and unfair to the purchasing public.

The nation's brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical ability to brew these products under the new federal standard. I'm told that these products successfully meet or exceed consumer expectations and could be available in all states immediately.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to offer my support for the current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. Thank you for bringing some common sense to this issue.

Sincerely,

Sylke E. Chesterfield