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State Representative Vice-Chairman:
RAMEY JOHNSON House Services Committee
675 Estes St Member.
Lakewood, CO 80215 COLORADO Agriculture, Livestock &
Home: 303-232-1567 Natural Resources Committee
Capitol: 303-866-2951 Health, Environment, Welfare &
E-mail: ramey.johnson.house@state.co.us HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Institutions Committee
STATE CAPITOL
DENVER
80203

September 11, 2003

Mr. William H. Foster, Chief
Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D. C. 20091-0221

RE: TTB Notice No. 4
Dear Mr. Foster:

As a member of the Colorado state legislature, I am writing to offer my support for the proposed rule change recently issued by the Tax and Trade Bureau in TTB Notice No. 4 of March 2003 regarding the alcohol content of Flavored Malt Beverages (also known as FMBs). This proposed change is essential to the beer industry. It clearly delineates the difference between beer and other alcohol beverages requiring the alcohol content in FMBs, derived from distilled alcohol, not exceed 0.5% in order to be classified as "beer."

Golden, Colorado is home to Coors Brewing Company. Additionally, Anheuser-Busch and many small breweries call Colorado home. Maintaining an orderly marketplace and helping to sustain consistency of federal alcohol beverage categories are primary concerns of the brewing industry in Colorado.

This rule change allows for consistency in classification of these products. Federal leadership in this area is critical as state definitions of "beer", "malt beverage", and "spirits" are often similar. Federal rule changes will help us maintain clear and distinct definitions that will guarantee consistent tax, licensing and distribution policies for each category.

Again, I would appreciate your support of the TTB Notice No. 4 rule change.

Sincerely,

Ramey Johnson
State Representative
House District 23
pc: Don Kawulok, Reg. Mgr., Government Affairs
Coors Brewing Company