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Massachusetts Restaurant Association
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September 5, 2003

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

Re: TTB Notice 20091-0221

Dear Chief:

The Massachusetts Restaurant Association would like to go on record in support of the proposed rule issued by your division in TTB Notice No. 4 of March 2003 regarding the content of Flavored Malt Beverages. This proposal, with its .05% standard, is consistent with the historical interpretations of what constitutes beer and other malt beverages.

This proposed ruling will give states the guidance that is needed on how to classify these products. In today's global market place, standards such as these are needed to maintain consistency between the states, particularly, given the fact that there are so many multi-unit operators today who own businesses in many different states.

Our association is in support of this proposal and urge its adoption.

Peter G. Christie, CAE
President/CEO