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From: Steve Matthews [gr_llc@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2003 9:45 AM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Subject: Reference TTB Notice No. 4

October 22, 2003

Steve Matthews, President

Government Relations, LLC

13106 Brook Mist Lane

Fairfax, VA 22033

TTB via email: nprm@ttb.gov

SUBJECT: Reference TTB Notice No. 4
Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express my support for the TTB'S proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages, which preserves the integrity of beer. I believe the TTB's action is an important clarification that ensures that if a FMB product is to be sold as a malt beverage, it should be made as a malt beverage according to traditional brewing methods and processes. If your rule is adopted, consumers will still be able to enjoy FMB products and wholesalers and retailers will continue to be able to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today. However, absent your new standard, brewers, retailers, and wholesalers will face a potential for a patchwork of individual state laws and regulations where the same product may ultimately be sold as a "beer" in one state and as "hard liquor" in another. I understand that we are already seeing this kind of situation in the state of Nebraska and will almost certainly see this situation in several other states. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my support for your proposed FMB rule preserving the unique differences and integrity of beer.

Sincerely,

Steve Matthews

703/919-7882

gr_llc@msn.com