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ALABAMA STATE SENATE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4600

August 21, 2003

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Dear Mr. Libertucci: Southern Legislative Conference

Reference: Notice 4

In my capacity as an Alabama State Senator I am writing to express my support for the United States Treasury Department Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau's proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages.

TTB's proposed action provides much-needed clarification of the Federal alcohol beverage categories which are intended to maintain an orderly marketplace in our country.

In

addition, the proposed standard's debate provides for an important opportunity for the discussion of the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

Once the

proposed rule is adopted, the standard will help insure an orderly marketplace, provide for

consistency in products to meet consumer expectations, as well as help sustain the long-term

development of the product category. Also, the consistency of these reformulated products with

state tax, license, and distribution laws will allow wholesalers and retailers to continue to

distribute, sell, and market flavored malt beverages as they do today.

Although there are some who have concerns regarding the ability of manufacturers to produce flavored malt beverage products in accordance with the new proposal, brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical ability necessary to brew these products under the new Federal standard. 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 your consideration of my recommendation on this important issue. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Gerald Dial

GD:kd