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October 6, 2003

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

Attn: Notice No. 4
Dear Mr. Foster,

As a concerned citizen and avid malt beverage consumer, I want to express my support for the 0.5% standard on flavored malt beverages proposed by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. It is imperative that the integrity of the fermentation process of malt beverages is preserved.

As a consumer in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which operates under the three-tier system, I am concerned that our system (and many others around the country) is in jeopardy unless the 0.5% standard is adopted. Without a federal standard, distinguishing malt beverages from distilled spirits, each state will be forced to deal with the problem alone. Creating a piecemeal system will only exacerbate the burden on manufacturers, distributors and consumers.

I support the Virginia ABC Department's endorsement of the 0.5% standard and encourage you to adopt the proposed regulation.

Best regards,

Christy Tomlinson