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John Gard  
Speaker of the Assembly

July 31, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
Post Office Box 50221  
Washington, DC 20091-0221

Reference: TTB Notice Number 4

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001-136P). I applaud your department on its work to clarify the longstanding federal law with regard to these beverages.

The proposed 0.5% standard ensures the stability of the retail licensing system in the overall marketplace. This standard will allow wholesalers and retailers to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today, preserving product integrity with no discernable taste difference to the consumer.

This clarification is very important to the State of Wisconsin. Miller Brewing Company, one of the largest employers in our state based in Milwaukee, has made substantial investments in flavored malt beverages. Clarifying that these and other products are made according to traditional brewing methods and processes will bring all brewers across the country into the same high product uniformity standards, a direct benefit to the consumer.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support for the current TTB proposed rulemaking on flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

John G Gard,  
Speaker , Wisconsin State Assembly

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