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Michael (Mickey) Lehman  
State Representative  
99th Assembly District

Committee Chair: Ways and Means

July 30, 2003

Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division  
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau  
Post Office Box 50221  
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

ATTN: Notice 4

Dear Sir/Madam:

At this time, I am writing to express my support for a proposed Federal rule ensuring that flavored malt beverages remain classified as malt beverage products (2001R-136P). This classification is imperative as it determines how flavored malt beverages will be sold, marketed and taxed.

The proposed 0.5% standard ensures the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace in clarifying that any product sold, marketed and taxed as a malt beverage product must be made according to traditional brewing methods and processes. With this consistent standard, wholesalers and retailers will be allowed to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today. 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 difference for consumers.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my support for the current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. In the event I can provide further information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL (Mickey)" LEHMAN  
State Representative  
99th Assembly District

ML:mk

cc: Paul J. Lucas

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