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September 12, 2003

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

Ohio House of Representatives

Dear Sir or Madam:

James P. Trakas As a member of the Ohio General Assembly with an interest in the Majority Whip regulated beverage industry, I am writing to express my support for the U.S.

Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking
17th House District

Parts of Cuyahoga County for flavored malt beverages. (2001R-136P)

District Office I believe the TTB's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol
6924 Brettin Court beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US marketplace.

Independence, Ohio 44131 Further, I believe the debate surrounding the proposed standard poses important
telephone: (216) 621-5419 issues for the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.
fax: (216) 621-1841

Capitol Office

With my support for the proposed 0.5% standard, I am joining The Beer
Riffe Center Institute, the National Beer Wholesalers Association, and major small brewer
77 South High Street associations, among many others, because this standard is the most efficient
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111 means to address recent concerns by both federal and state officials. If adopted,
tollfree: (800) 282-0253 the standard will maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectations
telephone: (614) 644-6041

fax: (614) 752-8632 for consistent products, and help sustain the long-term development of the
e-mail: District17@ohr.state.oh.us product category. In addition, these reformulated products will be consistent
www.house.state.oh.us with state tax, license, and distribution laws allowing wholesalers and retailers
to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do

Committees today.

Finance and Appropriations

However, absent a national standard rooted in existing law and
Higher Education regulation, manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers will face a potential for a
subcommittee patchwork of individual state laws and regulations where the same product may
Rules and Reference ultimately be sold as a "beer" in one state and as a "distilled spirits" in another.
State Government

Joint Legislative Ethics

Finally, while there are some who have concerns regarding the ability of
Recycling and Litter Prevention manufacturers to produce FMB products in accordance with the new proposal,
Hispanic-Latino Affairs as you may know, brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and
technical ability to brew these products under the new federal standard. The
FMB 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.

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

Sincerely,

Ohio House of Representatives

House Majority Whip