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October 15, 2003

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

Attn: Notice 4

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the Chair of Michigan's Senate Finance Conunittee, I am writing to share my support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001R-136P).

In clarifying that any product sold, marketed and taxed as a malt beverage product must be made according to traditional brewing methods and processes, the proposed 0.5% standard ensures the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

This consistent standard will allow wholesalers and retailers 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 differences for consumers.

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

Sincerely,
Senator Nancy Cassis, Chair
Senate Finance Committee ,
State of Michigan

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