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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD
3000 Pacific Ave SE • P0 Box 43075 • Olympia WA 98504-3075 • (360) 664-1600

October 21, 2003

William Foster
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
Post Office Box 50221
Washington DC, 20091-022 14

Dear Chief Foster:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau's (TTB's) pending ruling regarding flavored malt beverages Notice No. 4. The Washington State Liquor Control Board supports TTB's proposal to limit the percentage of alcohol that may be derived from flavorings in malt beverages to 0.5% alcohol by volume.

It is important to the Washington State Liquor Control Board and other state liquor authorities that consumers are aware of what they are drinking and its alcohol content. Consumers can only make informed decisions if they have clear and consistent information. The TTB's proposal to place a 0.5% alcohol by volume limit on flavorings that contained spirits and to require alcohol content to be listed on the brand label of flavored malt beverages are reasonable and important requirements that will protect consumers.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important issues and appreciate your consideration. The issues raised in this letter have important policy implications for the states, including issues of consumer protection, taxation, and distribution channels. Addressing these issues at the federal level will ensure consistency and preclude the various states from having to create separate regulations.

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If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Licensing and Regulation,
Lorraine Lee, at 360-664-1615 or by e-mail at llee@liq.wa.gov.

Sincerely,
Merritt D. Long Vera Ing. Roger Hoen
Chairman Board Member Board Member

cc: Jeffrey J. Greer, President, National Conference of State Liquor Administrators
Randy Yarbrough, Chair, Joint Committee of the States to Study Alcohol Beverage Laws
Jim Sgueo, Executive Director, National Alcohol Beverage Control Association
Pat Kohler, WSLCB Administrative Director
Rick Garza, WSLCB Deputy Administrative Director
Lorraine Lee, WSLCB Director of Licensing and Regulation

LL:teb