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OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RALEIGH 27601-1096
JAMES B. BLACK LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
SPEAKER October 22, 2003 PHONE: (919) 733-3451

Mr. William Foster
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-022 1

Attn: Notice No. 4
Dear Mr. Foster:

I write to express my support for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau's proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. (2001R-136P) The TTB's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US marketplace.

The proposed standard reinforces North Carolina's three-tier system, which is based in part on clear distinctions between categories of alcohol beverages. I concur with the North Carolina ABC Commission's letter endorsing the proposed standard and encourage you to adopt the proposed regulation.

Absent a national standard rooted in existing law and regulation, manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers will face a potential for a patchwork of individual state laws and regulations where the same product may ultimately be sold as a "beer" in one state and as a "distilled spirit" in another.

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

Sincerely,

James B. Black
Speaker of North Carolina House