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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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LEGISLATURE
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MARTIN R. STEPHENS RESIDENCE
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WEBER COUNTY

October 16, 2003

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

As Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives, I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001R-136P).

I believe the Tax and Trade Bureau's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol categories established to maintain an orderly U.S. marketplace. Further, I believe the debate surrounding the proposed standard poses important issues for the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

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 "beer" in one state and as "distilled spirits" in another. I would, therefore, support a national uniform alcoholic beverage standard.

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

Sincerely,

Martin R. Stephens
Speaker