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John O. Norquist
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

September 26, 2003

Chief, Regulation & Procedures Division
Alcohol, Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091

Dear Chief of the Federal Alcohol Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:

I am writing in support of the proposed Tax and Trade Bureau Notice #4 that seeks to establish an alcohol content level of 0.5% by volume for flavored malt beverages (FMBs).

This important proposed regulation would ensure a more equitable and competitive playing field for the brewing and distilling industries. The proposed rule change, if adopted, would recognize the brewing process by applying a national 0.5% by volume alcohol content standard that would apply to FMBs and not just beer.

This simple, uniform system of regulation of the FMB industry would be far more preferable to the increasingly complex myriad of state and local regulations being created to address problems resulted by the rapid growth of FMBs.

I appreciate the efforts of the United States Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to protect the important distinction between malt beverages and distilled spirits. Clearly defining the differences between beer and FMBs will serve the public interest of equalizing taxes, market access, advertising, and distribution.

I urge you to support the rule to establish an alcohol content level of 0.5% by volume for flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

JOHN O. NORQUIST
Mayor
Enclosure

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