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10/20/2003 MON 18:41 FAX 2022252486 CONGRESSMAN BILL SHUSTER 002/002
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Bill Shuster 9th District, Pennsylvania
Assistant Majority Whip

Committee on transportation and infrastructure
subcommittees:
aviation
highways and transit
water
committee on small business
subcommittee:
enterprise, agriculture and technology

congressional rural caucus
older americans caucus
rural health care coalition
congressional steel caucus
congressional sportsmen's caucus

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washing, DC 20515-3809

Chief Regulation and Procedures Division
Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

Via Facimile 202-927-8525

Re: Tax and Trade Bureau Notice Number 4

Dear Chief, Regulation and Procedures Division:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment regarding the proposed standard for flavored malt beverages (FMBs) published in the Federal Register on March 24, 2003, by the Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB).

Recently, FMBs have been gaining popularity with many new products and have been found to constitute approximately 5% of the overall U.S. malt beverage market, in my view, the proposed rule permits brewers and importers to supply retailers and consumers with new and existing FMB brands while still maintaining the integrity of the malt beverage category.

The 0.5% standard will help maintain the integrity of beer and will preserve the historical difference of the various industry products. This proposed rule also will retain the definition of beer as a product made through the brewing process.

I support the proposed 0.5% by volume rule. In addition to ensuring product integrity, the rule will also support oversight and regulatory efforts of state regulators, state legislators and federal regulators, while providing beer consumers with the historical understanding of what constitutes a malt beverage product for those of legal drinking age.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the TTB rulemaking.
Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER
Member of Congress

WFS: mbh

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U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Bill Shuster
9th District of Pennsylvania
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TO:
FAX: TTB- Chief regulations & Procedures Division 202-927-8525

DATE: 10/20/03

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Michele Hennessey Alex Mistri
Christopher Gindlesperger Angelo Terrana
Note: Comments regarding Notice number 4