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REPRESENTATIVE Thomas Walsh
WYOMING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 14 October, 2003

Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
PO Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091

Dear Chief,

This is a letter of strong support for 2001R-136P as proposed by the US Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau concerning flavored malt beverage issues.

The proposed standard significantly clarifies that marketed and taxed malt beverages must be in line with the strict standards now required of all other malt beverage products. This is essential, not only for product integrity, but it preserves the longstanding distinctions imposed on beers, wine, and spirits.

Without such definitions how can we state legislators work with alcohol-related legislation? The answer is basic; if we don't have adequate definition of products we can not function in this arena of study and action in a professional and educated manner.

State Legislators need, no, demand, that we have an accurate and universal language so that we can all work from the same page on the tremendous and critical challenges presented to state decision-making on alcohol products.

Product integrity is very important. Even more important are longstanding distinctions in definitions. If we are absent a national standard --rooted in existing law, tradition, and regulation, we at the state level are in deep trouble when we step onto the playing field of local decision-making.

Costly, unnecessary, and disruptive state legislative activities will follow if there is failure to adopt the 0.5% trade standard. We do not have that time and money to waste on building definitions at state levels which may conflict with same in other adjoining states.

Thank you for considering my support for the TTB proposed rule making.

Dr. Tom Walsh

Committees:
Transportation and
Highways
Minerals, Business and
Economic Development

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