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Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2003

Mr. William FASTER  
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
ATT: Notice Number 4  
P.O. Box 5052211  
Washington, DC 20091

Dear William:

I support the proposed TTB rule regarding the alcohol content of Flavored Alcohol Beverages (FABs). As you know, this rule would require that no more than 0.5% alcohol content of FABs be derived from distilled alcohol in order for an FAB to be classified as beer.

The proposed rule will help maintain an orderly marketplace and determine how states classify these products. While states have traditionally held independent regulatory power with regard to these alcohol products, they have followed federal policy in their decision related to taxation, licensing, and distribution of alcohol.

Without the proposed 0.5% federal standard, the same product may be sold as beer in one state and distilled spirits in another. This situation would create state regulatory compliance issues and consumer confusion. A federal policy setting clear, distinct definitions for each alcohol beverage category is vital in order to guarantee consistent state taxation, licensing and distribution policies.

I urge your support of the TTB Notice Number 4 rule change (05%).  
Regards,

Steve Buyer  
Member of Congress

SB:mac