

<< 0042068 >>

SEN PARKER Fax:518-426-6843 Sep 29 2003 11:54 P. 02

KEVIN S. PARKER ALBANY OFFICE:
SENATOR 21ST DISTRICT
ROOM 517
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALBANY, NEW YORK, 12247
PHONE: 518-485-2580
COMMITTEES FAX: 518-426-8843
AGRICULTURE e-mail
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE parker@senate.state.ny.us
COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& SMALL BUSINESS
CORPORATIONS AUTHORITIES THE SENATE
& COMMISSIONS
FINANCE STATE OF NEW YORK
HIGHER EDUCATION
VETERANS HOMELAND SECURITY
& MILITARY AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
NEW AMERICANS TASK FORCE

September 25, 2003

Chief Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
PO Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091-0221

Subject; TTB Notice No.4

Dear Sire or Madam:

As an elected official, I am writing to express my support for the US Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001R-136P). I believe the TTB's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US marketplace. The debate surrounding the proposed standard poses important issues for the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

This standard is the most efficient means to address recent concerns by both federal and state officials. If adopted, the standard will maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectation for consistent products, and help sustain the long-term development of the product category. In addition, these reformulated products will be consistent with state tax, license and distribution laws allowing wholesalers and retailers to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today.

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 a "distilled spirits" in another.

There are some who have concerns regarding the ability of manufacturers to produce FMB products in accordance with the new proposal. As you may know, brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical ability to brew these products under the new federal

<< 0042068A >>

SEN PARKER Fax:515-426-6843 Sep 29 2003 11:54 P.03

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
September 25, 2003
Page 2

standard. The FMB products that look and taste the same will be available to wholesalers and retailers in all states with no interruption and no discernable taste difference for consumers.

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

Sincerely,

KEVIN PARKER