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MICHAEL COHEN
Assemblyman 28th District
Queens County

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August 21, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Re: TTB Notice No. 4

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to you in support of the United States Treasury Department's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) proposal for flavored malt beverages (2110R-I36P).

I feel it is imperative that the TTB go forward with this proposal in order to establish continuity and stability with regard to retail licensing systems and the overall marketplace. The proposed standards would certainly bring much needed clarification to state and federal policies governing the sale of flavored malt beverages. If implemented, this standard would ensure an orderly marketplace, offer consumers consistency in the products they are purchasing and help sustain development of this product category. Additionally, the reformulation of these products will adhere to state license, sales tax, and distribution laws. Wholesalers and retailers would be able to distribute these beverages as they do today.

By taking action on this issue the TTB would ensure that we have a national standard for the sale of flavored malt beverages. Without this national standard there is the potential that each state may regulate and sell these products differently. One state may sell the beverages as "beer" while another may categorize them as "distilled spirits".

It has been brought to my attention that brewers already have the ability to brew these products under this federal standard. Further, the products brewed under this new standard will look and taste the same and will be available to wholesalers and retailers without disruptions in distribution.

I thank you for your courtesy and consideration. If I may be of further assistance with regard to this matter please contact my District Office.

Sincerely, .

Michael Cohen
Member of Assembly

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