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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Speaker

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Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division  
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To Whom It May Concern:

As Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, I feel it important to let you know of my support for the proposed standard of composition for Flavored Malt Beverages (FMBs), as set forth by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TIB) in Notice No. 4 of March, 2003. The proposal adopts a standard under which an FMB, in order to be classified as beer, must receive less than .05% of its total alcohol by volume from distilled spirits or from flavors devired from distilled spirits.

I regard this proposed rule as a critical step toward consisent classification of these products. Maintaining an orderly marketplace and helping sustain consistency of federal alcohol beverage categories are primary concerns of everyone involved with the alcohol beverage industry. More importantly, the proposed rule will foster uniformity in such categories at the state level. Maintaing clear and distinct definitions between "beer", "malt beverage" and "spirits" will, in turn, promote clarity in important tax, licensisng and distribution policies.

Therefore, I strongly support the proposed ".05%" standard for FMBs and urge the implementation of the rule, as proposed.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Charlie DeWitt

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