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MAJORITY LEADER Senate Chamber COMMITTEES
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August 13, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice No. 4
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a State Senator and Senate Majority Leader from Colorado, I support the proposed rule recently issued by the Tax and Trade Bureau in TTB Notice No. 4 of March 2003 regarding the alcohol content of Flavored Malt Beverages ("FMBs"). This rule would require that no more than 0.5% of the alcohol content of FMBs be derived from distilled alcohol in order to be classified as "beer" Colorado is the home of both the Anheuser-Busch and Coors breweries, many of this Country's leading craft brewers, and a strong wholesaler network, including Miller Brewing Company.

The proposed rule is important because it gives states guidance on how to classify these products. While states have traditionally had independent regulatory power on how to classify alcoholic products, they have followed federal policy in their decisions related to taxation, licensing and distribution of alcohol. Federal leadership in this important area will likely be followed at the state level and will work to maintain an orderly marketplace. Without the proposed federal standard, the same product may ultimately be sold as "beer" in one state and "distilled spirits" in another and would result in state regulatory compliance problems and consumer confusion. I support the proposed rule as providing important protections for consumers who need accurate information as to the nature of the beverage alcohol products they purchase.

Sincerely,

Norma Anderson

Senate District No. 22

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