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House of Representatives  
State of Idaho

August 17, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
P.O. Box 50221  
Washington, DC 20091

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a state legislator I am writing to express my support for the U. S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. I believe the action of the TTB is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly Idaho and U.S. market place.

The proposed 0.5% standard is the most efficient means to address recent concerns by both federal and state officials concerning the alcoholic content of flavored beverages. This standard, if adopted, would help maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectations 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.

Without a national standard rooted in existing law and regulations, manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers will face a potential for a patchwork of individual state laws and regulations where the same product may be sold as a "beer" in one state and as a "distilled spirits" in another. It only makes sense to have a federal standard for all states to use.

Thank you for your time in reading comments on this issue.

Sincerely,

Darrell Bolz