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From: Kathryn Porter [ivannaporter@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2003 5:55 PM

To: nprm@ttb.gov

Subject: TTB Notice #4, Flavored Malt Beverages and Related Proposals (2001R-136P) October 17, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division Tax and Trade Bureau PO Box 50221 Washington, D.C. 20031-0221 RE: TTB Notice #4, Flavored Malt Beverages and Related Proposals (2001R-136P)

Dear Sir or Madam: I'm writing to you today to express my support for the proposed regulations for products marketed as flavored malt beverages (FMBs), as set forth by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) in TTB Notice No. 4 of March 2003.

It seems that this proposition is endangering the true definition of beer... a beverage based with malt, wheat, or other grains, hops for flavor, aroma, and/or bitterness and possibly other ingredients (fruit, coffee, spices, nuts, chocolate, or even herbs) to enhance the final flavor. In my opinion allowing a FMB to be called a "beer" lessens the integrity of the product so many brewers have worked hard to revive in our culture. FMB's are not "beers", they are beverages with very little malt base and the alcohol is mostly derived from spirits.

Groups like the American Homebrewers Association, the Association of Brewers, and the Beer Judge Certification Program have over 100 recognized beer style categories and subcategories. Flavored Malt Beverages are not recognized by these respected organizations and should not be recognized by law as beer.

Furthermore, treating Flavored Malt Beverages as beer threatens beer culture so many have worked so hard for in the last 25-30 years, and would damage the integrity of small and large breweries with a potential to destroy their economy. Allowing favorable business conditions to the FMB producers over brewers of real beer could toss the professional brewing industry into a recession costing many jobs and weakening our already struggling economy.

In summary, I support the proposed "0.5% standard" for FMBs in order to preserve beer culture and to defend the image of what the general public considers beer.

Sincerely, Kathryn Porter

Homebrewer

Sunshine, CO USA

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