

0049013

From: allaw3369@excite.com

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2003 10:44 AM

To: nprm@ttb.gov

Subject: TTb Notice #4

10/17/03

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 support 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. Beer is a beverage with malt flavor
and hop bitterness, flavor and aroma. FMBs
display none of these characteristics, and
should not be considered beer by any definition.
A comparison can be drawn to the growth of fruit
beers in the United States. While revolutionary
in their flavor and aroma, these products were
clearly beers that had flavorings added. There
is no mistaking the hop and malt character
evident in all of these products. FMBs are not
beer-like in the least.

There are over 100 recognized beer
style categories and subcategories, as
recognized by the American Homebrewers
Association and the Association of Brewers. The
Beer Judge Certification Program, which sets
parameters for beer evaluation and style, has
not recognized FMBs as a beer style for any of
the competitions they sanction.

To consider FMBs as beer is a threat to beer
culture in the United States, and would be
damaging to the businesses of the large and
small brewers around the country. In 1978 there
were only 42 breweries in the U.S.; now there
are over 1400. A whole industry of small brewers
has formed over this period, but that number is
now shrinking again, in part due to favorable
business conditions provided to FMB producers
over beer brewers.

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,

Alyssa Law