

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO CONTROL
Baton Rouge 70896-6404

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR
Governor

CYNTHIA BRIDGES

Secretary

MURPHY J. PAINTER
Commissioner

May 22, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau
Washington, DC 20091-0221

Attn: Notice No.4

Dears Sirs:

The State of Louisiana totally supports TTB' s present proposal to clarify the arguments of the make up and compositions of Flavored Malt Beverages as being malt or spirits. This determination will effect the present taxing structure of this product in this state but will not be a distribution issue due to our split being six-percent between high or low alcoholic beverages.

The present proposal, as provided, that alcoholic beverages are to be taxed as beer and regulated as malt beverages only if less than one half of one percent of the content of the beverage is from alcohol added through the addition of distilled spirits rather than from the brewing process would not cause Louisiana to enact any new legislation to maintain this standard.

Due to the present economic situations regarding budget shortfalls, we would encourage TTB to continue on a swift path for a possible conclusion that would mean more needed revenues for this state.

Please feel free to contact this office if any additional information is needed.

Respectfully,

Murphy J. Painter
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

