

<< 0041002 >>

RANKIRIG MEMBER
THE ASSEMBLY Committee on Standing Committees
COMMITTEES

STATE OF NEW YORK Insurance
Labor
ALBANY
Rules
MEMBER
NANCY CALHOUN Legislative Commission on
State/Local Relations
Assemblywoman 96th Oistrict Hudson River Valley Greenway
Orange and Rockland Counties
Communities Council

August 22, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P O Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Subject: TTB Notice No. 4

Dear Sir or Madam:

As an elected official, I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. (2001 R- I 36P)

I believe the TTB's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US marketplace. The debate surrounding the proposed standard poses important issues for the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

This standard is the most efficient means to address recent concerns by both federal and state officials. If adopted, the standard will maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectations for consistent products, and help sustain the long-tenn 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.

Absent 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 ultimately be sold as a "beer" in one state and as "distilled spirits" in another.

There are some who have concerns regarding the ability of manufacturers to produce FMB products in accordance with the new proposal. As you know, brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical ability to brew these products under the new federal standard. The FMB products that look and taste the same will be available to wholesalers and retailers in all states with no interruption and no discernable taste differences for consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to offer my support for the current TTB proposed rule making for flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

Nancy Calhoun
Member of Assembly

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1002 World Tradeway Stevail International Airport, New Windsor New York 12553,1845) 564-1330 Fax 1845) 5641~7
ALBANY OFFICE Room 525, Legislative Ottice Building Albany New York 12248 1518) 455 5441 Fax 1518) 455-5884