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Susan Danford
PG Box 1394
Jackson, WY 83001

September 8, 2003

Chef, Regulations and Procedures Division
Tax and Trade Bureau
PG Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091-00221

Dear Sir:

I'm writing in regard to the 0.5% standard for Flavored Malt Beverages. It is my opinion that these products should remain in the malt beverage category by federal standard. They are brewed, not distilled. They have been developed and marketed by the brewing industry at no small cost to the breweries and distributors. They are the equivalent of a beer in the mind of the consumer. To classify FMBs as spirits would allow the liquor industry to reap the profits the brewing industry has earned. Further, it would confuse the consumers who think of FMBs as beer. The category of pre-made cocktails with liquor labels already exists. To reclassify FMBs would just cause confusion. As a person with many young adult friends who party, I would like to see that avoided.

Thank you for your approach in this matter. I urge you to give final approval to the 0.5% standard for FMBs.

Sincerely,

Susan Danford
Concerned Citizen