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FARM BUREAU MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
POST OFFICE Box 1972 • JACKSON. Mississippi 39215-1972 • 601-957-3200

September 5, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice No. 4
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
PO Box 50221
Washington. DC 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau's (TTB) proposed standard of composition for Flavored Malt Beverages (FMBs). The proposal will limit the amount of distilled alcohol that can be added to beer as an approved flavoring to less than 0.5% of the alcohol by volume in the final product. The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation supports this proposal to ensure that the volume of agricultural commodities used in the fermentation and brewing process remains consistent.

America's farmers produce large quantities of high quality grains and feedstock for the FMB industry. It is a symbol of pride and tradition that brewers expound on in advertisements and numerous partnerships exist between agricultural organizations and FMB makers that focus on environmental stewardship and conservation of resources and economic development in our rural areas. To allow a reduction in the use of agriculture products in the fermentation and brewing process could further harm the economic stability of our agricultural industry and jeopardize the partnerships referenced above.

Please hold true to the proposed "0.5% standard" for FMBs to ensure reliable markets for the nation's agricultural products. The agricultural sector cannot stand to lose more markets to substitute products with inferior qualities. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue.

Sincerely,

Brent Bailey
NER Director

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