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LEGISLATURES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 25, 2003

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

Re: TTB Notice No. 4
Dear Sir or Madam:

As a public officer and citizen of the State of Tennessee and chair of the Senate Committee overseeing legislation relative to alcoholic beverages, I write in support of the rules proposed by the TTB in Notice No. 4, "Flavored Malt Beverages and Related Proposals. The State of Tennessee has traditionally accorded the status of "beer" for distribution and taxation purposes to those products whose alcohol content is derived from natural fermentation at the brewery. Products with an alcoholic content in excess of .5% derived from sources other than natural fermentation are treated by Tennessee as distilled spirits. The TTB proposal recognizes the distinction between naturally fermented beer at the brewery, and artificially alcohol enhanced products, as does our own law. I encourage the adoption of the proposed rule.

Most sincerely,

STEPHEN I. COHEN
State Senator

SIC/md

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