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Arizona State Senate

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a member of the Arizona Legislature and the Senate Majority Whip, I am writing to express my full support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages, (2001 R-136P). This proposed regulation permits the addition of flavorings and other materials containing alcohol to malt beverage products only if the alcohol from such materials constitutes less than 0.5% by volume of the finished product. This new rule would require all flavored malt beverages to be made according to traditional brewing methods and processes.

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

However, absent a national standard rooted in existing law and regulation, 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 a "distilled spirits" in another.

Finally, while there are some who have concerns regarding the ability of manufactures to produce FMB products in accordance with the new proposal, brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical ability to brew these products under the new federal standard.

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

Sincerely,

MARILYN JARRETT  
MJ:mc