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

Dear Mr. Foster:

I write to express my support for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau's proposed rule-making for flavored malt beverages. (200 1R-136P) The TTB's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US marketplace.

The proposed standard reinforces Virginia's three-tier system which is based in part on clear distinctions between categories of alcohol beverages. I concur with the Virginia ABC Department's letter endorsing the proposed standard and encourage you to adopt the proposed regulation.

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 whether the same product may ultimately be sold as a "beer" in one state and as a "distilled spirit" in another.

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

Yours truly,

James P. Moran

JPM/ad