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NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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August 7, 2003

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

Attn: Notice 4

Dear Sir or Madam:

I support the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages, (2001R-136P), which I believe will clarify alcohol beverages categories and maintain an orderly US marketplace. In my mind the proposed 0.5% standard is a common sense resolution of the many factors affecting the industry. It is my understanding that The Beer Institute, the National Beer Wholesalers Association and major small brewer associations also support the proposed rule.

Additionally, the reformulated products will be consistent with New Jersey state tax, license and distribution laws presently regulating wholesalers and retailers in the present malt beverage marketplace.

Without a national standard, manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers, must deal with a patchwork of individual state laws and regulations, which can only lead to chaos in the industry.

Thank you for consideration in this matter, if you require any further input, please advise and I will be happy to forward it to you.

Very truly yours,

Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.
Assemblyman -District 18

