

<< 0043821 >>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 21, 2003

Mr. William Foster
Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau
U.S. Department of Treasury
ATTN: Notice Number 4
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091

Dear William,

We support the proposed TTB rule regarding the alcohol content of Flavored Alcohol Beverages (FABs). This rule would require no more than 0.5% alcohol content of FABs be derived from distilled alcohol in order for an FAB to be classified as a beer.

The proposed rule will help maintain an orderly marketplace and determine how states classify these products. While states have traditionally held independent regulatory power with regard to these alcohol products, they have followed federal policy in their decisions related to taxation, licensing, and distribution of alcohol. Without the proposed 0.5% federal standard, the same product may be sold as a beer in one state and distilled spirits in another. This situation would create state regulatory compliance issues and consumer confusion. A federal policy setting clear, distinct definitions for each alcohol beverage category is vital in order to guarantee consistent state tax, licensing, and distribution policies. Our home state of Mississippi and several other states support this rule change as a critical step towards consistent classification of FABs.

We respectfully urge your support of the TTB Notice No.4 rule change (0.5%). Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Rep Roger F. Wicker
Rep. Bennie Thompson

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ROGER F WICKER
1ST DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

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To: William Foster, TTB

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Re: notice number 4

Sender:

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Message: letter supporting the rule change from congressmen Roger Wicker(R-MS) & Bonnie Thompson

You should receive .2 pages, including this cover sheet. If you do not receive all pages, please call
(202) 2254306.