

<< 0041619 >>

FAX NO. : SEP. 12 2003 03:15PM P1

September 08, 2003
CLIFFORD W. CROUCH
Assemblyman 107th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on Agriculture
COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Job Creation
Commerce and Industry
Labor

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a member of the New York State Assembly and elected official, I am writing to express support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau propose rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001R-136P). I believe the TTB's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly U.S. marketplace. The debates surrounding the proposed standard poses important issues that are crucial for the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

This standard is the most efficient means to address recent concerns by both federal and state officials. In order to help sustain the long-term development of this product category, maintain an orderly marketplace and meet consumer expectations, it is important that this standard be adopted. In addition, these reformulated products will be consistent with state tax, license, and distribution laws allowing wholesalers and retailers to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today.

Because there is no national standard rooted in existing law and regulation, manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers face the 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 as a "distilled spirit" in another.

The ability of manufacturers to produce FMB products in accordance with the new proposal has been raised as a concern by some. It has already been demonstrated that these brewers have the ability to brew these products meeting the new federal standards. The FMB products that look and taste the same will be available to wholesalers and retailers in all states with no interruption and no discernable taste differences to consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to offer my support, as a member of the New York State Assembly, for the current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (2001R-136P).

Sincerely

Cliford W. Crouch
Member of Assembly
107th District

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 545, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248, (518) 455-5741, FAX (518)455-5864

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1 Kattleville Road, Suite 1, Binghamton, New York 13901, (607) 648-6080, FAX (607) 548-6089

Printed on recycled paper.