

00416224  
State of New Hampshire  
House of Representatives

Tax and Trade Bureau  
Re: Notice # 4

Dear Sir  
As a New Hampshire State Representative I wish to express my support for the proposal to limit spirit based alcohol to .5% in Flavored Malt Beverages. I believe such a rule is needed to insure that consumers know what they are buying.

A Flavored Malt Beverage should be a Malt Beverage. To allow spirits to make up as much as 49% of the alcohol content does a disservice to the buying public. Here in New Hampshire, spirits are sold by the state in state liquor stores only. Private companies sell beer and malt beverages in traditional grocery stores. Consumers here know that if you are buying a product at a grocery store it is either wine or a beer/malt beverage product. I am certain they are not aware that some of these products contain a large percentage of spirit-based alcohol.

As a legislator I am concerned with the potential adverse tax implications if the line between what is a spirit and what is a malt beverage continues to be blurred. We tax malt beverages in New Hampshire while we receive revenue from spirits by directly selling the product. Our liquor stores are not equipped to stock Flavored Malt beverages not does our liquor commission want to take these products on. Drawing a clear line as to what is and is not a flavored malt beverage will keep the distinction between the products in place.

I urge you to take this step to ensure consumer confidence and to ensure that a malt beverage is a malt beverage.

Thank you for your time.

Representative Raymond Buckley  
NH House Democratic Whip  
300 Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH 03301

