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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

DISTRICT NO.53
JEFFERSON COUNTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
STANDING COMMITTEE:

DEMETRIUS C. NEWTON Jefferson County Legislation
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205/324-0511 Fax Legal Defense Committee
205/324-6053 Home August 26 2003 Medal of Honor for LSW Enforcement
205/324-2097 Fax , Officers Committee
334/242-7664 Montgomery Office Youth Access to Tobacco Advieonj Board
334/242-2208 Fax

Mr. Arthur Libertucci, Administrator
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
Post Office Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Mr. Libertucci:

With reference to Notice 4, I am writing in my capacity as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Alabama House of Representatives to express my support for the United States Treasury Department Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau's proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages (200 1R-1 36P).

Intended to maintain an orderly marketplace in our country, the Federal alcohol beverage categories will receive a much-needed clarification. Once the proposed rule is adopted, the standard will help insure an orderly marketplace, provide for consistency in products to meet consumer expectations, as well as help sustain the long-term development of the product category. Also, the consistency of these reformulated products with state tax, license, and distribution laws will allow wholesalers and retailers to continue to distribute, sell, and market flavored malt beverages as they do today. Furthermore, the proposed standard's debate provides for an important opportunity for the discussion of the stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

There are some who have concerns regarding the ability of manufactures to produce flavored malt beverage products in accordance with the new proposal; however, brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical ability necessary to brew these products under the new Federal standard. The flavored malt beverages that look and taste the same will continue to be available to wholesalers and retailers in all states with no interruption and no discemable taste differences for consumers.

I appreciate your consideration of my recommendation on this important issue. I hope you will call me if you require any further information.

Very truly yours,

Demetrius C. Newton

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