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FROM Fr~X NO. Oct. 15 200~ 01:1SPM

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Clifton Park, New York 12065

October 15, 2003

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

Subject: Notice 4 - Proposed Flavored Malt Beverage Rulemaking
Dear Chief:

I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. (2001R-136P)

The TTB's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US marketplace.

If adopted, the standard will maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectations for consistent products, and help sustain the long-term development of the product category. 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.

In the absence of a national standard rooted in existing law and regulation, manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers and consumers will 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 spirits" in another,

Brewers have already demonstrated the expertise and technical ability to brew these products under the new federal standard with no interruption and no discernable taste differences for consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my support for the current TTB proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,
John J. Boltz