

<< 0041653 >>

Eagle DISTRIBUTING OF SHREVEPORT, Incorporated

September 11, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice No.4  
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau  
P.O. Box 50221  
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the TTB that outlines the alcohol content requirements for FMB's (flavored malt beverages) to

classify as beer.

The interpretation of what constitutes beer and other malt beverages and the TTB-proposed rule are consistent. As you are aware, beer is regulated and taxed differently than other alcohol beverages. The integrity of beer and the brewing process will be ensured with the adoption of the TTB "0.5 by volume standard".

The importance of consistent regulatory policy must be maintained because while states enjoy regulatory power, most follow federal regulatory guidelines. The proposed TTB rule will help maintain an orderly marketplace, avoid costly and confusing disruptions in state licensing, and taxation and distribution policies.

Support of this TTB proposal will maintain the vital differentiation between beer and other alcohol beverages. Beer is a product that is made from the distilling process and therefore unique from other alcohol beverages.

I support the TTB proposal and enlist your support to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% by volume standard.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ballard  
Community Relations

900 West 62nd Street P.O. Box 8605 Shreveport, LA 71148 (318) 868-2708 FAX (318) 865-3139