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Budweiser
KING OF BEERS

September 10, 2003

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of the proposed standards of composition for Flavored Malt Beverages (FMB) as set forth by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) – issued in the TTB Notice No. 4 in March of this year. Notice No. 4 is essential to the beer industry as it clearly defines the difference between the beer industry and other alcoholic beverages, requiring that the alcohol content in FMIBs derived from distilled alcohol not exceed 0.5% in order to be classified as beer.

Continued success in the beer brewing industry requires maintaining an even keel for all industry members who produce beer or other malt beverages. Harris Wholesale regards this proposed rule critical towards a consistent classification of alcoholic beverages. Our industry must have an orderly marketplace and a consistency of laws and regulations – establishing alcohol beverage categories are primary concerns of the brewing industry.

Governmental (Federal) leadership in this area is critical as individual states define "beer / malt" beverages and all are generally consistent with their definitions with those found in Federal laws. Therefore, this proposed rule will most likely be followed at the state level, helping to maintain the clear definitions that will guarantee consistent taxation, licensing and distribution policies for each category. Any alterations to the TTB proposal will disrepute state legislative/regulatory actions causing significant ramifications for thousands of alcoholic beverage licensees.

I support the 0.5% standard for Flavored Malt Beverages. Beer is not a distilled spirit. It is also not a fortified wine. The Anheuser-Busch products we sell are not made through a distilling process. Our beer is made through a very defined and high-standards process. The 0.5% standard will ensure that the integrity of beer remains.

Harris Wholesale encourages the Tax and Trade Bureau to give its approval to the proposed 0.5% standards on Flavored Malt Beverages.

Best regards,

Worth Harris
CEO

HARRIS WHOLESAL, INC.
1390 Capital Boulevard (27603) . P.O. Box 1190 • Raleigh, NC 27602. (919) 833-3609