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BUDWEISER

Jamesj Buquet, Jr. September 8, 2003
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. J. Buquet, III
PRESIDENT

Attn.: TTB Notice #4
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D. C. 20091-0221

To Whom It May Concern:

BUQUET DISTRIBUTING CO., INC. supports the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) that outlines the alcohol and content requirements in order for Flavored Malt beverages to be considered beer. In particular, the TTB proposed that for such a beverage to be considered beer, the distilled alcohol level cannot be inore than 0.5%.

Beer has been around for several thousand years and has not been taxed the same as other alcoholic beverages during the brief span of our country's history. The proposed ruling stated in the first paragraph is consistent with the historical interpretation of what constitutes the beverage we call beer. The 0.5% alcohol by volume content of beer was established by Congress when beer excise taxes were first imposed in the early 1800s.

With the profusion of new alcoholic beverages now coming onto the market, consistent federal regulatory policy is important to provide our various states with viable guidelines. This new ruling will help avoid disruptions in the marketplace and confusion with state licensing and taxation policies.

It is important that the alcohol level distinctions between beer and beverages of higher distilled alcohol content be maintained. These distinctions impact federal and state regulations on how beer and other alcoholic beverages are taxed. If The traditional regulatory distinctions between beer and other alcoholic beverages are not maintained, other producers of alcoholic beverages will soon attempt to have all manner of beverages classified as beer or beer products.

Beer is a product that is made through the brewing process. It is not a product that has been made through the distillation process and it is not a fortified wine. The 0.5% alcohol by volume content standard for beer will help insure that the integrity of beer will remain intact.

BUQUET DISTRIBUTING CO., INC. supports the proposed 0.5% alcohol standard for Flavored Malt Beverages and encourages the TTB to give its approval to this standard.

BUQUET DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, INC.

100 Eagles Nest Ct. • P.O. Box 7053 Houma, LA 70361 • tel: (985) 853-3100