

<< 0043075 >>

KING OF BEERS6

A-B DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

October 13, 2003

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

A
I. support the prop-os-&d rule, is 'su-cfin M-rcfP2003-b-the-Tax and-Ti-ct-\Bureau (TTB): ~
~h-at states th-t fdC ~ FMh toi3&'classified as]-e-r, its" al6dhdfc6nt'ent frdrii distilled
alcohol can t~xc'eed050/~ ~2Q i~
I, &~-'~y
4
B~ef~'is a umq ~Prddu-t thai? has b~en're-1~4d ~ th~.n'oth~er alcohol,
beverages tllioughout our nation's his~6ry. ~The TTB
proposed rule is cpnsisten with th~
l{istoncal interpretati&nlofwhaf'constitutes beer i~nd other m4lt beverages. 'Adoption of
the TTB "0.5 by voh~&e standard" ~v6uld endure t~e integrity 6f beet and the breWing~.
process. ~-i"

This proposed rule would help maintain an orderly marketplace and avoid costly and
confusing disruptions in state licensing, taxation and distribution policies. Equating beer
to beverages that derive a majority of their alcohol content from distilled spirits could
weaken the important distinctions between beer and products with higher alcohol content.
These distinctions impact state and federal policies regarding the regulation and taxation
of beer and other alcohol beverages.

Beer is not distilled spirits. Beer is not fortified wine. Beer is not a product that has been
made through the distillation process. Beer is made through the brewing process. The
0.5% standard will ensure that the integrity of beer remains.

Sincerely,

Amos Ramirez

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