

0040605  
Hoffman Beverage Company  
Proud Distributors of Anheuser-Busch Beers Since 1933

August 8, 2003

Attention: TTB Notice No.4  
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
P. O. Box 50221  
Washington, DC 20091-0021  
Dear Sir or Madam:

Hoffman Beverage Company supports the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) that outlines the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages (FMB) to be classified as beer. Specifically, the TTB proposes that for an FMB to be classified as beer, its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

Beer is a unique product that has been regulated and taxed differently than other alcohol beverages throughout our nation's history. This proposed rule would help maintain an orderly marketplace and avoid costly and confusing disruptions in state licensing, taxation and distribution policies, any of which would deal a severe blow to beer wholesalers.

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.

Once again, Hoffman Beverage Company encourages the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on FMBs.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Sutton  
President

VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23462-6512  
CHESAPEAKE, VA 23321-2701

