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September 18, 2003

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

To Whom It May Concern:

We at Bernie Little Distributors, Inc. support the proposed rule that specifies the alcohol content requirements for a flavored malt beverage to be classified as beer. The Tax and Trade Bureau proposes that for a flavored malt beverage to be classified as beer, its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

This proposed rule is consistent with the historical definition of beer and other malt beverages in the Internal Revenue Code set over two hundred years ago. Accepting this proposition would allow our industry a clear and concise regulatory policy for these products. It would also avoid costly and confusing disruptions in state licensing and taxation policies as most states follow federal regulatory guidelines. The Tax and Trade Bureau's "0.5 by volume standard" would ensure the ongoing integrity of beer quality and the brewing process.

Bernie Little Distributors, Inc. encourages the Tax and Trade Bureau to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

Keith Harris
Vice President and General Manager

BERNIE LITTLE DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

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