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BUDWEISER
KING OF BEERS

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
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August 29, 2003

Chief Regulations and Procedures Division
Tax and Trade Bureau
Po Box 50221
Washington, DC 20091-0221

Comments Referencing: "TTB Notice No. 4"

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposed 0.5% standard or the "90/10" rule.

We are a wholesaler of malt beverage and have held federal license since 1960 to distribute malt beverages in the State of Maine.

Over the years we have seen many products come and go through our distribution system but one thing that has always been consistent is that the products that we have distributed have never been "hybridized", i.e., they have clearly been malt beverages. I hope that you will not allow a dilution of the historical standard of where the alcohol should source from to determine the nature of the product. Clearly you seem to be addressing this situation with your new rule making.

We think it is very important to keep the historical and well-founded distinctions between beer and distilled spirits. In Maine, distilled spirits are sold through the State Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages while malt beverages are sold through private wholesalers. The 90/10 rule keeps that distinction clear and we strongly urge its adoption.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Kane
President