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Colorado Beer Distributors Association

September 2, 2003

ATTN: TTB Notice #4
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
PG Box 50221
Washington DC, 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

As President of the Colorado Beer Distributors Association (CBDA), representing beer wholesalers in the state, I support the proposed rule recently issued by the Tax and Trade Bureau in TTB Notice Number 4 of March 2003 regarding the alcohol content of Flavored Malt Beverages (FMBs). This rule would require that no more than .05% of the alcohol content of FMBs be derived from distilled alcohol in order to be classified as "beer".

The CBDA believes this proposed rule as a critical step toward consistent classification of these products. While states have traditionally had independent regulatory powers on how to classify alcohol products, they have followed Federal policy in their decisions related to taxation, licensing, and distribution of alcohol. Colorado is no exception. Federal leadership in this important area will likely be followed at the state level and will work to maintain an orderly marketplace.

The Colorado Beer Distributors Association and its members support the proposed rule, and respectfully requests that the TTB adopts TTB Notice Number 4.

Sincerely,

Steve Findley, President
Colorado Beer Distributors Association

1776 S. Jackson St. #603 Denver CO 80210
303.756.7925 FX: 303.756.1058 Email: beerdist@ix.netcom.com
Cell: 303.332.5419