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August. 7. 2003 WESTERN BEVERAGE, INC.
301 East Wyatt Earp P0. Box 124 Dodge City KS 67801 • 620-227-7641

Attn: TTB Notice No. 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 Sales Manager of Western Beverage, mc, I support the proposed rule that outlines the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages to be classified as beer. Specifically, the Tax and Trade Bureau proposed that for an FMB to be classified as beer, its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

Consistent regulatory policy is important because, while states enjoy regulatory power over alcohol, most follow federal regulatory guidelines. This proposed rule would help maintain an orderly marketplace and avoid costly and confusing disruption in state licensing, taxation and distribution policies, any of which would deal a severe blow to beer wholesalers like my company.

Beer is not a fortified wine. Beer is not distilled spirits, or a product that has been made through the distillation process. Beer is a unique product made through the brewing process. Adoption of the TTB "0.5 by volume standard" would ensure the integrity of beer and the brewing process. Beer has always been regulated and taxed differently throughout our nation's history.

I encourage the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on flavored malt beverages.

Sincerely,

Western Beverage, Inc.

Jon Ewy
Sales Manager

Budweiser. Bud Light . Michelob Michelob Light • Busch . Busch Light. O'Doul's/Amber