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August 19, 2003
Chief Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau
Attn: TTB Notice No. 4
Regulations and Procedures Division
P.O. 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir/Madam:

As President of Collins International, I would like to voice my support of the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) which outlines the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages to be classified as beer.

It is not only imperative to my corporation, but also to the entire industry as a whole that the integrity of beer be maintained. Additionally, this proposed 0.5% by volume standard will not only ensure an orderly marketplace but it would also prevent costly/confusing disruptions in state licensing, taxation and distribution policies.

During the early 1800's, beer had been labeled as a unique product and has since then earned distinct regulatory treatment within this country. The clear distinction between beer and spirits within the liquor industry should continue as it has over the past years. With all due respect, flavored malt beverages may in fact be unique like beer is, but there is a defined distinction based on the brewing/distillation process and should be treated as such.

Thank you for your attention regarding this issue.

Tim Collins
President - Collins International