<< 0040816 >>

Miller Brands of Omaha

4651 "F" Street Omaha, NE 68117 402-734-5200 402-734-2414 FAX

August 8, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice No. 4 Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau P 0 Box 50221 Washington, DC 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

Miller Brands of Omaha supports the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the Tax and Trade Bureau that outlines the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages to be classified as beer. Specifically, the TTB proposes that for a FMB to be classified as beer, its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

Our company is abeer distributor, we do not handle any distilled spirits or fortified wines. We also sell some of the FMWs on the market today. We do not want to be in the distilled spirits business or the fortified wine business and as such we are supporting the regulations that classify FMB's as beer for alcohol content and tax purposes.

Although our state has its own alcohol regulations, they follow the federal guidelines in most respects. By determining one set of rules that FMB's be classified as beer, state government costs can be contained by referring to federal regulations taxpayers like me money.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and I encourage the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on FMB's

Chuck Strehl Vice President & General Manager