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MILLER BREWING COMPANY

BLUE RIDGE DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, INC.

August 8, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice No. 4  
Chief, Regulation and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
P.O. Box 50221  
Washington, D.C. 20991-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

Blue Ridge Distributing Company, Inc. is in favor of the proposed rule issued by the TAX and Trade Bureau (TTB) that outlines the alcohol content requirements so that flavored malt beverages (FMB) would be classified as beer then its alcohol content cannot exceed 0.5%.

Throughout our nation's history beer has been viewed as a unique product and had been regulated and taxed differently than other alcoholic products. This proposed ruling is consistent with that interpretation.

This ruling would maintain order and avoid costly and confusing issues regarding federal and state licensing, taxation, and distribution policies, all to the detriment of beer wholesalers.

It is of utmost importance that traditional distinctions between beer and distilled spirits be maintained in so that other producers of alcohol beverages will attempt to categorize themselves as beer products.

Beer is made through the brewing process; it is not distilled spirits, fortified wine, or any other product made through the distillation process. A standard of 0.5% will maintain the integrity of beer products.

Blue Ridge Distributing asks that the TTB give final approval to the proposed 0.5 % standard on FMBs

Sincerely  
Blue Ridge Distributing Company, Inc

Larry E. Robinson  
President

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