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MILLER BREWING COMPANY

CENTEX BEVERAGE, INC.

August 14, 2003

Mr. William Foster
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
P.O. Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Attn: Notice No. 4
Flavored Malt Beverages and Related Proposals

Dear Mr. Foster,

As President of Centex Beverage, and having concerns about the categorization of liquor, beer and, I write to express my support for the flavored malt beverage standards proposed in 68 Federal Register 14292, March 24, 2003.

The rule that flavored malt beverages (FMB's) cannot contain distilled spirits in quantities greater than 0.5% is consistent with the federal threshold at which industry products are taxed and regulated as alcoholic beverages. Therefore, if the quantity of distilled spirits found in FMB's remains below that threshold, a standard that represents a generally agreed upon legal non-existence, it follows that this policy will result in few if any disruptions to state licensing, taxation and distribution systems.

The distinction between beer and distilled spirits is a historically and culturally - established tradition of consequence to communities, precincts, counties and states. Your proposals wisely recognize that distinction. Accordingly, I urge you to give final approval to the 0.5% standard for FMB's.

Sincerely,

James Cowan
President
Centex Beverage

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