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BUCK DISTRIBUTING COWANY, INC.  
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Chief Regulations, Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
P.O. Box 50221  
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the proposed 0.5% by volume standard on flavored malt beverages (FMBs) as published in the Federal Register on March 24, 2003. The proposed rule from the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) states that an FMB's alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

This proposed rule would ensure clear guidelines for all in the alcohol industry. Currently there has been confusion for brewers, wholesalers, retailers, and consumers as to what constitutes a beer. The overwhelming variety of FMBs infused into the marketplace has left consumers wondering exactly what they are purchasing. This uncertainty raises questions of what beer is and what beer is not.

By adopting the 0.5% by volume standard on FMBs the TTB will set clear definitions on alcoholic beverages and avoid the pricey and confusing interruptions in state licensing, distribution policies, and taxation that can occur when guidelines are unclear.

Sincerely,

Gregg Atkinson  
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