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From: brian els [brianel@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 4:49 PM
To: nprm@ttb.gov
Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 4'

name=Brian Els
name=
Address1=12504 SW Shelby Ct
Address2=
City=Lake Oswego
State=OR
Zip Code=97035
Comments=Dear Sir/Madam:

I support the proposed regulations for products marketed as flavored malt beverages (FMBs), as set forth by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) in TTB Notice No. 4 of March 2003.

These regulations aim to properly define "beer" as something which is fermented, and which derives most if not all of its flavor and alcohol content from fermentation. Not from a squirt of some kind of distillate.

For the USA to adopt strict quality standards for beer -- in this case, the "0.5% limit" -- would be an enormous step forward. Look at the reputation which German brewers have enjoyed since the adoption of their beer purity laws in the 16th century. America's craft beer culture has already become a significant economic factor in my region of the country, the Pacific Northwest, and the proposed regulations would only help the further growth of public awareness.

So-called "flavored malt beverages" or FMBs represent a threat to the craft brewing industry, since they are aggressively marketed (often to the young!) as alternatives to "regular beer." But whatever FMBs are, they surely aren't "beer," and the federal government would be wise to define "beer" to exclude these execrable products.

I support the proposed "0.5% standard" for FMBs, to defend the craft brewing industry, to raise the general quality of American beer, and to continue the process of palate education among the American public.

Sincerely,

