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TTB Notice Number 4

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

P.O. Box 50221

Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the proposed rule issued in March by the Tax and Trade Bureau outlining the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages to be classified as beer. The Bureau has proposed that for a flavored malt beverage to be classified as beer its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

Beer is a unique product that has been regulated and taxed differently than other alcohol beverages through our nation's history. The proposed rule by the Tax and Trade Bureau is consistent with the historical interpretation of what constitutes beer and other malt beverages.' Adoption of the 0.5 by volume standard would ensure the integrity of the beer and the brewing process.

A consistent regulatory policy is important. States enjoy regulatory power over alcohol but most follow federal regulatory guidelines. This proposed rule would help maintain an orderly marketplace and avoid costly disruptions confusing licensing and taxation policies any one of which could deal a severe blow to beer wholesalers.

Trying to equate beer and beverages that derive a majority of their alcohol content from distilled spirits could weaken the distinctions between beer and products with higher alcohol content.

If the traditional distinctions disappear it will only be a matter of time before other producers of alcohol beverages attempt to categorize themselves as beer product.

Beer is not a distilled spirit and it is not a fortified wine. Beer is brewed through the brewing process. It is not, nor has it ever been, a product that has been made through a distilling process. The 0.5% standard will insure that the integrity of beer remains.

Sincerely,

Leonard Anderson

General Manager