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MACTARNAHAN'S
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September 8, 2003

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

Re: TTB Notice No.4

Portland Brewing Company supports the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the TTB that outlines the alcohol content requirements for flavored malt beverages to be classified as beer. Specifically, the TTh proposes that for and FMB to be classified as beer, it's alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5 %.

These products in their present form do not fit the description of beer in any way. I believe it's important to maintain the distinction between beer and spirits.

Beer is a product of fermentation. The process of concentrating alcohol by distillation is not a part of beer production.

The misclassification of these products has cost this state a good deal of revenue at a time when money is short. The sooner this is corrected the better.

Portland Brewing Company encourages the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5 % standard on FMB's

Sincerely,

Frederick L. Bowman
President

A PORTLAND BREWING COMPANY