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PERRY DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
Hazard, KY 41701 .

August 7, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice #4.
Chief Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
PO Box 50221 .
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

To Whom It May Concern:

As a 3rd generation participant in our family owned business we are constantly monitoring regulations that can incur damage to our families way of life and livelihood. Our company Perry Distributors, Inc., in Hazard Kentucky support the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) that outlines the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages (FMB) to be classified as beer, its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

Our family has been distributing this licensed, legal, healthful with use in moderation product for over 50 years. Beer is a unique product with history going back to the beginning of recorded time, going back to our nations beginnings and our early Presidents daily lives. The new TTB proposed rule is consistent with the historical interpretation of what constitutes a beer and other related malt based products. The distinct treatment in regulations is based on its age-old production process, and it's definition in the IRS Code dates back to the 1800' s when Congress first imposed the beer excise tax. This tax in fact was to be dropped at the end of the war, its' use was to fund the war only. Adoption of the TTB 0.5% standard would ensure the integrity of beer and the brewing process.

Consistent regulatory policy is important to our industry and all industries. Our industry by far is one of the most regulated in the nation. This proposed rule will help maintain an orderly marketplace and avoid costly and confusing disruptions in state licensing, taxation and distribution policies, any of which would deal a severe blow to beer wholesalers.

Moreover, equating beer and beverages that derive a majority of their alcohol content from distilled spirits could weaken the important distinctions between beer and products with higher alcohol content. These distinctions impact many levels of policies on the state and federal levels. If this distinction is eroded away, it will only be a matter of time before other producers of alcohol beverages attempt to categorize themselves as beer producers.

Our products are NOT DISTILLED SPIRITS, we are not a fortified wine. Our products are not made thru the distillation process. Beer is made in a brewing process. The 0.5% standard will ensure that the integrity of beer remains.

I once again ask and our company asks the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on FMBs. My children would like the opportunity to be the 4th generation in our business. Consistent and fair regulation will enable me to pass our business to them in the future.

Sincerely,

William Fields
Co-Owner / Perry Distributors, Inc.

Budweiser. Bud Light. Bud Ice. Bud Ice Light. Michelob. Michelob Light.
Michelob Honey. Michelob Black & Tan. Michelob Hefeweizen. Busch. Busch Light. Busch N/A. Natura/Light. Natura/Ice. King Cobra. O'Dou's Amber. Tequila. Doc Otis