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BUDWEISER
KING OF BEERS

August 26, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice No. 4

Chief Regulations and Procedures Division

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

P0 Box 50221

Washington D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Michael Gavronski, owner of Tri County Distributors, LLC, a beer wholesale operation in Appleton, Wisconsin. I am writing in support of the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) giving final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on flavored malt beverages (FMB).

It is important not to blur the lines between beer and spirits. Beer is clearly derived from the brewing process and not the distilling process. Not only are beer and spirits marketed differently, they are taxed differently as well. It is imperative that FMBs sold, marketed and taxed as malt beverages adhere to the same standards as other malt beverages.

Your support of the 0.5% standard on FMBs will recognize the distinction between beer and spirits in addition to preserving the integrity of beer. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Gavronski
Managing Member

TRI COUNTY DISTRIBUTORS, LLC