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From: Thornton Distributing Co. [thornton@mlode.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 4:35 PM

To: nprm@ttb.gov

Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 4'

name=DAVE THORNTON

name=THORNTON DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

Address1=P.O. BOX 821

Address2=14325 TUOLUMNE ROAD

City=SONORA

State=CA

Zip Code=95370

Comments=I 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. Adoption of the TTB 0.5 volume standard would ensure the integrity of beer and brewing process.

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 alcohol content.

Beer is not spirits. Beer is not fortified wine. It is important that beer consumers know what they are drinking.