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JEROME WHOLESALE, INC.

September 8, 2003

Attn: TTB Notice No. 4
Chief Regulations and Procedures Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
PO Box 50221
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

Jerome Wholesale Inc. encourages the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on FMBs.

Beer is not a distilled spirit, a fortified wine nor a product that has been made through distillation process. Beer is made through a brewing process. This 0.5% standard will ensure that the integrity of beer remains.

Beer is a unique product that has been regulated and taxed differently than other alcohol beverages throughout our nation's history. The TTB proposed rule is consistent with the historical interpretation of what constitutes beer and other malt beverages. The instinct regulatory treatment of beer is based on its age-old production process, and its definition in the Internal Revenue Code dates back to the 1800's when Congress first imposed the beer excise tax. Adoption of the TTB "0.5 by volume standard" would ensure the integrity of beer and the brewing process.

Again, we at Jerome Wholesale, Inc. encourages the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on FMBs.

Sincerely,

Charles T. Jerome
President

CJ/ps

520 Railroad Ave. . Devils Lake, ND 58301. (701) 662-5366 Fax: (701) 662-7994