

0047920

From: Jim Hellman [jhellman@HellmanDistributors.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 1:21 PM

To: 'nprm@ttb.gov'

Subject: 'TTB Notice No. 4'

name=Jim Hellman

name=Hellman Distributors, Inc.

Address1=815 Industrial Drive

Address2=

City=Sparta

State=WI

Zip Code=54656

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 by volume standard would ensure the integrity of beer and the 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 higher alcohol content. Beer is not spirits. Beer is not fortified wine. It is important that beer consumers know what they are drinking.