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DISTRIBUTING OF SHREVEPORT, *Incorporated*

August 7, 2003

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is in support of the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the TTB. It outlines the alcohol content requirements for flavored malt beverages (FMB) to be classified as beer.

The TTB proposed rule is consistent with the long standing interpretation of what constitutes beer and other malt beverages. Beer has always been regulated and taxed differently than other alcohol beverages. The adoption of the TTB, "0.5 by volume standard", is consistent and will ensure the integrity of beer and its brewing process.

The proposed rule would help maintain an orderly marketplace and clearly reinforce the federal regulatory guidelines in place in most states through out the country. The industry has followed this consistent policy and should not be confused or manipulated into new definitions.

Beer is not distilled spirits. Beer is not fortified wine. Beer is not a product made through the distilling process. The uniqueness of beer is made through the brewing process. The proposed TTB rule of a,"0.5 standard", will ensure the integrity of beer. Therefore, Eagle Distributing of Shreveport encourages the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard for FMBS.

Sincerely,

Robert Nichols

Robert Nichols
President

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