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STANLEY STAWSKI  
DISTRIBUTING CO., INC. Importer of Quality Wines, Beers & Liquors  
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September 5, 2003

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
P.O. Box 50221  
Washington, DC 20091-0221

Attention: Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division

Re: TTB Notice No. 4

Gentlemen:

We wish to support the proposed rules designating the composition of flavored malt beverages (FMB): specifically that to be classified as "BEER", the alcohol content from distilled alcohol may not be more than 0.5%.

We have considered the following points in reaching our decision:

1. BEER is produced by a brewing process, versus distilling (spirits); fermentation (wine).
2. BEER has been designated as a specific product for taxation purposes by Congress since the 1800's.
3. A ruling by TTB for a limitation of 0.5% alcohol content by volume for added distilled spirits in BEER would be a precedent for the states to follow the federal ruling. This in turn should provide a basis for consistency in tax rulings throughout the USA.
4. The ruling would serve to preserve the distinctive characteristics of BEER versus those with higher alcoholic contents (spirits and wine).

We urge and encourage TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on FMB.  
Very truly yours,  
STANLEY STAWSKI DISTRIBUTING CO, INC.

Larry Nevers  
National Sales Director

LN:jf

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