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CENTRAL DISTRIBUTING COMPANY  
Purveyors of Fine Beverages from Around the World

September 11, 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. 20091-022 1

Dear Sir/Ms:

As a beer wholesaler in the state of Illinois, I would like to take this opportunity to express our support of the proposed TTB 90/10 ruling relating to flavored malt beverages (FMB). This ruling as proposed by TTB, which specifies that an FMB contain no more than .5% of its alcohol content from distilled alcohol, is important in order to maintain the integrity of beer and malt beverages as we currently know them.

Beer is not a distilled spirit - it has important distinctions from distilled spirits in its brewing processes, regulation and taxing. The TTB proposal is consistent with the historical interpretation of beer and other malt based beverages and its adoption from your federal agency will be an important guideline for all states to use in their ongoing regulatory authority over alcohol.

Once again, we encourage the TTB to give final approval to the proposed .5% standard on FMB's.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Spagnola

President

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