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PETER C. STUHLER, INC.
"A Tradition of Quality Service Since 1878 "
Franklin, Pa 16323

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, DC 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing today to voice my support of 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. Specifically, the TTB proposes that for an FMB to be classified as beer, its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%. The TTB proposed rule is consistent with the historic interpretation of what constitutes beer and other malt beverages. Adoption of the TTB "0.5% by volume standard" would ensure the integrity of beer and the brewing process.

Equating beer and other 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. These distinctions impact state and federal policies regarding the regulation and taxation of beer and other alcohol beverages. If traditional distinctions disappear, it will only be a matter of time before other producers of alcohol beverages attempt to categorize themselves as beer products. Beer is made through the brewing process. The 0.5% standard will ensure that the integrity of beer remains.

I encourage the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on FMB's.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark J Murphy

Vice President