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Barbara Cokélet

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Tuesday, August 13, 2002

Dr. Beth Yetley, FDA
C/o Nancy Crane, FDA
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
US Food and Drug Administration
5100 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20740-3835

RE: Comment on FDA Draft
Proposal to CODEX CCNFSDU on Dietary Supplements

Dear Dr. Yetley,

I am strongly opposed to the efforts of the FDA and the drug lobby to "harmonize" the availability of nutritional and dietary supplements to the regulations of some European countries. This effort is aimed at restricting such availability to the American consumer by making such nutrients available only with a doctor's prescription. Such a development would dramatically increase the cost and availability of vitamin and mineral supplements which many people believe are essential to good health.

I urge that all attempts to create an international standard for vitamin and mineral supplements under CODEX be discontinued immediately.

These efforts to curtail the widespread use of vitamin and mineral supplements by the American consumer are obviously not intended for the benefit and protection of the American people since they are well aware of the value of these supplements. Instead this attempt at restriction is obviously meant to enrich the doctors and pharmaceutical companies who would then have the right to dole out these food supplements at whatever prices and in whatever quantities and potencies they please.

There is no valid reason to abridge the personal freedom of Americans to purchase vitamins and minerals which are actually food supplements.

I urge you to cease your attempt to eliminate the rights of Americans to have unrestricted access to the food supplements which we have enjoyed in good health for many years.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Cokélet