8614 Hartman Road • Wadsworth, Ohio 44281-9404
330•335•2318 • FAX 330•335•3222
www.ritzmanpharmacies.com

1134

March 24, 2003

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir/Madam:

As Vice President of Retail Operations & Natural Products of a health food pharmacy chain headquartered in Wadsworth, Ohio, I have been in the natural products industry for several years. Both my customers and I appreciate how the passage of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 improved consumer access to dietary supplements and information about them, while increasing consumer protection against unsafe products and false and misleading claims.

It causes considerable concern that the FDA has only just begun to initiate aggressive enforcement actions under DSHEA, yet is calling for suggestions for increased legislative authority in order to better regulate the supplement industry. Should you not first give these recent efforts a chance to work, and perhaps even issue good manufacturing practices for supplements, before calling for new laws?

Simply put, I believe the agency can regulate Ephedra without dismantling DSHEA.

It is also my understanding that DSHEA increased the FDA's enforcement powers and that the FDA can seize a dietary supplement if it presents an unreasonable or significant risk of illness or injury. Furthermore, our Government can stop the sale of an entire class of dietary supplements if it poses an imminent public health hazard.

The former FDA commissioner, Dr. Jane Henney, has even stated before Congress that she believes DSHEA provides the FDA with the necessary legal authority to protect the public health. I agree with Dr. Henney in the strong support of DSHEA and do not think any additional legislative authority is necessary.

Sincerely,

Jon A. Fiume
Vice President
Retail Operations & Natural Products

JAF/tk

95N-0304 C3835

CONVENIENT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOUR NEEDS

1323 Copley Road	113-5th Street, SE	410 North Main Street	120 High Street	55 Arch Street	4047 S Cleve-Mass Rd.	157 West Cedar Street	9056 Center Street
Akron, OH 44320-2653	Barberton, OH 44203-4204	Rittman, OH 44270-1163	Wadsworth, OH 44281-1855	Akron, OH 44304-1771	Norton, OH 44203-5603	Akron, OH 44307-2564	Seville, OH 44273-9580
(330) 867-8780	(330) 745-0018	(330) 927-3175	(330) 335-2595	(330) 376-1771	(330) 825-3400	(330) 434-9181	(330) 769-2995