



March 31, 2003

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, R. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA) represented the efforts of many Americans working with their congressional representatives to bring a measure of reason to the arena of dietary supplements. In the ten years DSHEA has been in force, countless Americans have benefited from the remarkable array of new and effective nutritional products in the marketplace.

DSHEA was not designed to be one-sided, however. The FDA was given explicit latitude to act on supplements it deemed detrimental to the public. We in the industry implore the FDA to avail itself of the powers conveyed by DSHEA to curtail companies engaged in demonstrably illegitimate activities. The proposition that new legislative authority is required contradicts the language of DSHEA and indeed subverts the intent of that act.

Members of the National Nutritional Foods Association have been making substantial progress on instituting good manufacturing policies and procedures. We encourage the FDA to assist us in this undertaking by issuing concrete guidelines that will help preclude many common safety issues confronting both consumers and marketers alike.

The framework for a successful relationship between the supplement industry and the FDA exists within the context of DSHEA. It is my hope that, in the interests of the health of the American public, we continue to nurture this bond.

Sincerely,

Barry A. Tauch  
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