Carlson

March 12, 2003

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing in regards to the FDA's recent request for additional authority beyond DSHEA due to the current ephedra safety issue.

My firm, J. R. Carlson Laboratories, Inc., has been a supplier of nutritional supplements since 1965. We have exhibited and displayed our products at the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology conventions plus several other medical meetings. We do not have ephedra in any of our products.

I am concerned by the FDA's request for more power. I am concerned by the circulated rumors that our Industry is not regulated. I am concerned by FDA comments implying that their hands are tied in controlling our Industry.

The FDA has power under DSHEA to stop the sale of supplements that pose a health hazard. They can stop unsubstantiated product claims.

The FDA can handle the ephedra problem adequately under the present DSHEA. No additional authority is needed.

Respectfully,
J.R. CARLSON LABORATORIES, INC.

John R. Carlson
President

95N-0304 C3772

JRC/ab
3-6-03 ltr re FDA authority