



The Chemins Company, Inc.

1835 East Cheyenne Road, P.O. Box 2498, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906-2498 (719) 579-9650

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March 25, 2003

Dockets management Branch (HFA-304)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir/Madam,

I own a manufacturing and distributing firm of dietary supplements in Colorado Springs, Colorado and have been in the natural products industry for 30 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.

I am concerned 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. Shouldn't you 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 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, the government can stop the sale of an entire class of dietary supplements if they pose an imminent public health hazard.

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

Sincerely,

THE CHEMINS COMPANY, INC.

Diane L. Cameron
President

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