



TaosHerbCo.



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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-205)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have co-owned and operated a small retail health food store in Taos, New Mexico for 23 years. This little enterprise employs 9 people paying salaries well above industry averages in a town whose economy is depressed.

Currently the natural food industry is a vital and thriving part of our economy employing many small manufacturers and independently owned groceries and health food stores all over the United States. It would be tragic not just for the people employed in this industry but for our whole economy if the FDA severely constrains and depresses it by amending the DSHEA. The proposed amendment would effectively close the door to industry growth through innovation and variety.

The passage of the Dietary Supplement and Education Act of 1994 insures the consumer access to dietary supplements and information while simultaneously providing the FDA with quite adequate power to protect the public against unsafe products and false or misleading claims. I agree with the suggestion that the FDA needs merely to fully implement the law by taking aggressive action against unsubstantiated claims and enforcing good manufacturing practices for supplements.

Yours in the spirit of healthy, robust and innovative capitalistic ventures thriving in a free enterprise.

Margretina N. Hahn, VP

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