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CONSUMER HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

February 24, 2004

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

Re: Docket No. 96N-0417, Good Manufacturing Practices for Dietary Supplements

Dear Sir or Madam:

We noted with interest the joint industry submission on January 30, 2004, to this docket from the American Herbal Products Association, the Council for Responsible Nutrition, and the National Nutritional Foods Association. While those associations, like our own, submitted comments on FDA's proposed rule for dietary supplement Good Manufacturing Practices in August 2003, they continued to work on specific language for the GMP rule that would both resolve concerns for the industry and assist the agency in its preparation of a rigorous but reasonable final rule.

We would like to add our voice to theirs in supporting the joint industry submission. We urge FDA to strongly consider the joint comments as the agency develops a final rule for dietary supplement GMPs.

Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA) member companies remain committed to providing consumers with safe and beneficial dietary supplements that are manufactured under high quality standards.

CHPA is the one hundred and twenty-three year old trade association representing manufacturers and distributors of dietary supplements and over-the-counter drug products.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas W. Bierer, Ph.D.
Vice President, Regulatory &
Scientific Affairs

cc: Karen Strauss, CFSAN (HFS-821)
Charles Prettyman, CFSAN (HFS-001)

DB/ds

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