

THE VITAMIN BARN

03 MAR 31 10 01

March 20, 2003

DOCKET AND MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
5630 FISHER LANE, RM. 1061

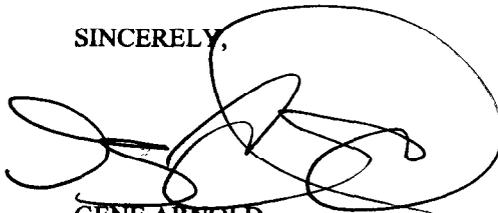
Dear Sir or Madam:

I OWN A HEALTH FOOD STORE IN MALIBU CALIFORNIA FOR 8 YEARS. BEFORE THAT I OWNED A STORE IN CANOGA PARK CALIFORNIA. I REMEMBER WORKING HARD TO GET MY CUSTOMERS TO SUPPORT THE DIETARY SUPPLEMENT AND HEALTH ACT OF 1994. WE FELT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT ACT DEFENDING OUR RIGHT TO FREE CHOOSE OF HOW WE TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES.

THE FDA HAS TAKEN A VERY LACKLUSTER APPROACH TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF DSHEA. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE AGENCY IS WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO EITHER CHANGE OR DISREGARD THE ACT COMPLETELY. AFTER EIGHT YEARS THE FDA FINALLY RELEASED ITS GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES FOR THE INDUSTRY, AND YET IS CALLING FOR MORE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO BETTER REGULATE THE SUPPLEMENT INDUSTRY. SHOULD THE FDA FIRST TRY TO IMPLEMENT THE CURRENT DSHEA AND GIVE IT A CHANCE TO WORK? I FEEL THAT THE AGENCY HAS IGNORED THE CURRENT LAW.

DSHEA GAVE THE FDA AUTHORITY TO PROPERLY REGULATE THE SUPPLEMENT INDUSTRY WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTING CONSUMERS RIGHT TO CHOOSE AND BE INFORMED. I SUPPORT DSHEA AND DO NOT FEEL THE FDA NEEDS ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE EPHEDRA OR ANY OTHER DIETARY SUPPLEMENT.

SINCERELY,



GENE ARNOLD

95N-0304

C 3844

.....