

Protect Existing Dietary Supplement Laws From CODEX

_____ 2009

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative _____:

Please co-sponsor the Dietary Supplement International Protection Act of 2009. *If enacted, this Bill will ensure that the laws that Congress has passed, with the strong support of consumers regarding dietary supplements will not be changed or superseded by guidelines and standards developed within the CODEX Alimentarius and other international organizations.* It will also keep Congress in the review process of any future evaluations of international guidelines that might affect U.S. Dietary Supplement Laws.

Consistently, Congress with strong support from the public, has taken corrective action when the FDA attempted to restrict our access to vitamins and minerals. In the 1960's the FDA attempted to dramatically restrict vitamin potencies to below therapeutic levels. The Congress responded with the Proxmire Amendment in 1976. FDA continued their push to force dietary supplements into the prescription drug model and the Congress passed the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA) which clarified and strengthened dietary supplement regulations, keeping them where they belong in the food regulatory framework. Both were passed unanimously by Congress. In 1997, in response to growing concerns that the Executive Branch would use the harmonization of agreements to supersede DSHEA and Proxmire, Congress, as part of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act (FDAMA), exempted dietary supplements from mutual recognition and international harmonization activities. However, the Code of Federal Regulations has never been changed to reflect that amendment to the U.S. Code, and a technical correction to 21 CFR 130.6 is needed to clarify this, to officially reject

the 2005 CODEX Guidelines on Vitamins and Minerals, and to insert Congress into future reviews and prevent unilateral FDA or Executive Branch action.

Many Americans feel as I do that the CODEX Alimentarius Committee exceeded its mission by focusing on potency issues rather than cleanliness and quality control when they drafted and in 2005 accepted the CODEX Guidelines for Vitamins and Minerals.

I was disturbed to learn that the U.S. delegation did not earnestly move to block or object to the development of a guideline that was in direct violation of an existing U.S. law (Proxmire). These meetings all take place in international forums, with little to no public access. There are no recordings or verbatim transcripts.

I value my health freedom and the opportunity I have to take personal responsibility for my health.

I am among the more than 50% of Americans who have found great value in the use of dietary supplements in my health maintenance approach. Good science continues to back my choices. For example, for optimal health, two time Nobel Prize winner and Presidential Medal of Merit awardee, Dr. Linus Pauling promoted 200 times the 90 mg cap to Vitamin C that the FDA attempted to force on Americans in the 1960's. Two studies since 2004, by the highly respected Lewin Group, have found that the use of dietary supplements can offer significant healthcare cost-savings to the government and improve quality of life for individuals. I look forward to seeing your name as a co-sponsor and to seeing this Bill passed into law in 2009.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

City

State

Zip code

Email or Telephone