



440 1st St. NW, Ste. 520, Washington, D.C. 20001
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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
United States Senate
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the Natural Products Association (NPA) we ask for your vote of approval in President Donald Trump's nomination of Dr. Stephen Hahn to lead the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Hahn's medical and science background and expertise make him the ideal candidate to use current statutory authority in the Dietary Supplement Act of 1994 (DSHEA) and other amendments in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to regulate dietary supplements. NPA asks for the speedy approval of his appointment so that we can begin working with his staff under his oversight to address much-needed regulation for cannabidiol (CBD) products and enforcement for adulterated dietary supplements.

Inaction to date in the CBD marketplace has created a scenario that may lead to the next vaping-like health crisis. With more than 1,500 CBD products on store shelves across the country and 1 in 7 Americans using CBD, it is past time for consumers to have accurate information on CBD and time for producers to be properly regulated.

Dr. Hahn recently told the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee that "a significant proportion of Americans are using [CBD] products, and a significant proportion of Americans who are using the products think that they're already judged to be safe and effective by FDA when they're not." We share Dr. Hahn's concerns and that is why NPA supports legislation that would require the FDA to set a safe level for CBD consumption and create an urgently needed legal pathway for regulation of CBD products.

In addition to regulating CBD, action is needed in FDA's new dietary ingredient (NDI) notification process. Adulterated ingredients that have not completed the NDI notification process are entering our country at an alarming rate and it's been roughly six years since the FDA provided dietary supplement import alerts to prevent this. This puts American consumers at risk and compliant U.S. supplement-makers at a terrible disadvantage. It is our hope that with Dr. Hahn as its next Commissioner, the FDA will take on these much-needed actions to protect American consumers.

NPA is the largest trade association for the natural products industry, representing since 1936 the interests of manufacturers, distributors and retailers of foods and dietary supplements as well as health and beauty products. NPA represents more than 650 member companies including more than



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10,000 retail storefronts as well as suppliers, manufacturers and related natural products industry leaders.

As a leader in both the natural products and dietary supplement industries, NPA has witnessed firsthand the nationwide economic growth in creating good-paying industry jobs for over 80 years. According to an independent analysis, the dietary supplement industry alone serves as both a barometer of economic health in the country and an engine to drive jobs as this \$43.4 billion industry presently employs more than 750,000 Americans nationwide.

Over 200 million Americans consume a dietary supplement daily and we look forward to discussing the positive role supplements can play in public health for all Americans. NPA supports Dr. Hahn and regulatory agencies to enforce laws already on the books, to ensure a comprehensive and fair enforcement strategy, and to implement all tools at their disposal, including but not limited to misdemeanors in order to keep this marketplace the safest in the world.

Natural products, including foods, beverages, dietary supplements and cosmetics, are manufactured and sold in every state as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. NPA asks you to please consider your constituents who are employed in the natural products and dietary supplement industries when voting on the FDA nomination of Dr. Hahn. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with yourself and members of your staff to speak about this and other important issues effecting both industries in greater detail.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Fabricant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Fabricant, Ph.D.
CEO & President
Natural Products Association