



May 16, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The Natural Products Association (NPA) is the oldest and largest trade association representing the entire natural products industry. As a board-led organization, we advocate for our members who supply, manufacture, and sell natural ingredients or finished products for consumers.¹ The NPA promotes good manufacturing practices (GMPs) as part of the growth and success of the industry. For example, NPA was the first organization to offer a third-party GMP certification program. NPA's GMP standards include all of the FDA's GMP requirements of 21 C.F.R. Part 111 and specific requirements that exceed Part 111 or reflect best industry practices. Founded in 1936, NPA presents over 700 diverse members accounting for more than 10,000 locations of retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors of natural products, including foods, dietary supplements, and health/beauty aids. Our oversight programs have created a high level of confidence among retailers and consumers that products sold in the marketplace are why the US supply is the safest. The NPA stands ready to offer our services in helping to address the current baby formula crisis and quickly bring the life-saving baby formula to the market.

The ongoing labor shortages and global supply chain disruptions have impacted the supply of many products. In February, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recalled three significant varieties of baby formula. This has created an especially acute supply chain shortage of baby formula, which is often the only option for many of our nation's most vulnerable children.

As the leading manufacturers of protein powders, vitamins and minerals, amino acids, and other essential nutrients, we stand ready to assist the Administration in supplying the future of America with the vital formulas they need to grow and live healthy lives. With manufacturing plants strategically placed throughout the United States, including California, Illinois, Nevada, and New York, it provides us with the bandwidth to deliver large volumes of formula and produce other high-quality ingredients.

Major supply chain disruptions have put the lives of America's infants in an unimaginable position. This baby formula shortage is an urgent problem. Proud American workers in dietary supplement manufacturing plants are ready, willing, and able to help fix this issue. This would not be the first-time NPA members stood tall for the American people. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, NPA worked with the White House to ensure dietary supplement manufacturers were designated essential businesses under the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidance. CISA issued the guidance initially on March 19, 2020, and published four additional updates to reflect the changing landscape of the Nation's COVID-19 response.² This guidance was primarily intended to help officials and organizations identify essential work functions to allow access to their workplaces during community restrictions. This allowed the dietary supplement industry to

¹ <https://www.npanational.org/about/board-of-directors/>

² https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/essential_critical_infrastructure_workforce-guidance_v4.1_508.pdf



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provide nutrient-rich products to millions of Americans when health and wellness were at the top of everyone's minds.

Additionally, the baby formula shortage reaffirms the necessity for strengthening American supply chains. Congress took necessary steps in advancing the America COMPETES Act, making our supply chains stronger and allowing us to outcompete China. While the COMPETES Act will bring semiconductor manufacturing jobs back to the United States, it is merely the first bite at the apple. NPA urges your Administration to work with Congress on legislation to strengthen the dietary supplement supply chains.

Your support for legislation that will bring dietary supplement manufacturing jobs back to the United States will help the economy create good-paying jobs for all Americans, no matter where they live.

While you and your Administration continue to weigh whether to invoke the Defense Production Act NPA, our members stand ready to assist the Administration and the American people. Together we can help address the baby formula shortage, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Administration and discuss this matter further.

Thank you,

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

CC:

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Richard Burr
Representative Frank Pallone
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers