UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

March 4, 2010

The Honorable John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear John:

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me this afternoon about S. 3002, the Dietary Supplement Safety Act of 2010.

I am pleased that you understand my serious concerns with your bill. Also, I want to thank you for agreeing to withdraw your support for the provisions of S. 3002 that I believe would do great harm to the dietary supplement industry and work with me on solutions that will truly help dietary supplement consumers without injuring this important industry. More than 100 million Americans regularly consume dietary supplements as a means of improving and maintaining healthy lifestyles. Therefore, continued access to these products is extremely important to them.

As you know, I authored the 1994 Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) which ensures that individuals would have access to safe supplements and information about their use. DSHEA provided the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with all the authority they need, and more authority than they had ever had previously, to remove harmful substances from store shelves and ensure consumers have access to safe supplements.

As we move forward on this important issue, I want to work with you on calling for the full enforcement of existing laws, such as DSHEA, so Americans will have uninterrupted access to safe dietary supplements and bad actor companies are removed from the market immediately.

I'm counting on you working with me to make sure this important industry does not fall prey to over-regulatory regimes and mounds of costly government bureaucracy. I believe that if you and I will work together, we will be able to make a difference for good in the dietary supplement industry. In short, we will ensure safe supplements are always available to consumers and the dietary supplement industry will be able to continue to innovate and grow.

John, thanks for your willingness to resolve this important issue.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator