

Elizabeth H. Dickinson, Esq.
Chief Counsel
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993



March 16, 2013

Dear Ms. Dickinson:

First, we want to thank-you very much for the hard work of Ariel Seeley of your staff. She has worked very diligently on this matter and we appreciate her efforts very much. You must be proud to have her as a member of your staff. We recognize the extremely difficult situation she is in trying, on the one hand, to defend the actions of the Food and Drug Administration while, at the same time, attempting to conduct an honest and good faith review of the situation. We can appreciate the terrible conflict this must create for her. Please extend our thanks to her.

When we first asked to meet with you I was sincerely hoping that we could simply sit down together, talk honestly to one another as people of mutual integrity and quickly move forward to fairly resolve our concerns. But instead the train of justice has fallen off the tracks. It has now been over three months since we first asked to meet with you and we still are not even able to agree that any wrong has actually happened here. As I shared with Ariel earlier, I am a simple man who is not an attorney and I cannot afford to hire one to advocate on my behalf in an adversary legal setting. But it does seem to me, as a layman, that while there is way too much FDA legal jockeying going on, there is way too little effort to resolve the real issues a play here. In the meantime, however, the lives of real people are being destroyed.

Our company, just when we were in the position to make the food supply safer for all Americans, has been forced out of business by the FDA; on our side of the equation we are now in the unemployment lines, we can no longer pay our bills, the credit ratings that we have worked to a lifetime to preserve have been destroyed and all of our families have suffered terribly as the result of the actions taken against us by the FDA. The extended order effects of improper actions have had devastating consequences in this case.

For example, did you know that one of my company's employees is an 80% disabled military veteran who has an extended family that relies on him as the principal breadwinner? Can you possibly imagine what that must be like for him and his family? In another case, a member of the FoodQuestTQ family of employees has worked, scrimped and sacrificed literally everything he owns including his house, his retirement and his entire life savings to make our business a success. He too is the principal breadwinner for an extended family whose elderly in-laws live with his family. There are many other stories of anguish too. It is much too easy to forget that the actions we take can hurt real people.

This is why I am again pleading for your help and understanding to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. What is happening here is not some far away abstraction of reality. It is the real thing. People's lives and futures depend on our integrity, honesty and willingness to come together in a responsible way to resolve this matter quickly and fairly. That is why I am asking for the opportunity to meet with you personally to get the train of justice back on the tracks here. In the meeting, we would like to simply share with you the honest story of exactly what has happened here. I am sure that once you hear the true and complete story you will be appalled and take whatever actions are necessary to immediately turn this bizarre situation around.

It is true that we are at the mercy of the FDA and our own government because we simply cannot afford a long and expensive legal battle to achieve justice for ourselves. In my case, I am a 62 year old white male with few prospects for any possibility of future employment who would likely die before receiving any relief for my family as the result of this terrible situation. I do not like to think about leaving my wife impoverished as the result of the risks I have taken to create a small business. Thus, we have no choice but to rely on you and our own government to act with integrity to fairly protect our interests.

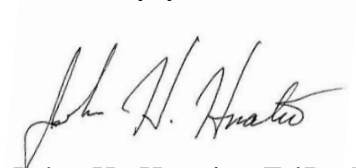
But time is definitely running out for us. This is why we have reached out to the Small Business Administration Office of Small Business Advocacy and the National Ombudsman for Small Business to help the FDA and FoodQuestTQ LLC come together. Our hope is that the SBA Ombudsman will carefully watch what is going on as an objective third party to help the FDA and FoodQuestTQ balance the need for FDA legal propriety against the real world needs of FoodQuestTQ to fairly resolve the situation as soon as possible. We believe that this approach will help both the FDA and FoodQuestTQ work through the issues fairly and objectively. The wonderful added advantage of this approach

is the requirement that we must complete our work within 30 days and file a full report to the Small Business Administration. Of course, this is critically important if FoodQuestTQ is to have any hope of surviving the actions that have been taken against us by the FDA.

Thank-you very much for your help in working with us. It is truly appreciated. We know how busy you are. If the personal meeting I suggest is agreeable to you please let me know and I will work our schedules to meet at any time that is convenient for you and your staff.

Please feel free to contact me at my office telephone of 240-439-4476 x-11 to arrange for a meeting or if we can be of any further help to you in resolving this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Hnatio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John H. Hnatio, EdD, PhD
Chief Science Officer
FoodQuestTQ LLC
(T) 240-439-4476 x-11
(M) 301-606-9403
E-mail: jhnatio@thoughtquest.com

cc: Ms. Ellie Zahirieh, Office of the SBA Ombudsman