

Mr. Brian Castro
National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Enforcement Fairness
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW
Washington DC 20416



November 22, 2013

REFERENCE: Case No. 1303150001

Dear Mr. Castro:

Thank-you very much for your letter dated November 20, 2013, informing us that you have referred our case to the Office of Inspector General (IG) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We intend to cooperate fully with Mr. Levinson and the OIG-HHS in their investigation of this matter.

We also want to thank you for enclosing the April 29, 2013, correspondence signed by Mr. Andrew Moss, Deputy Ombudsman for Small Business, of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A copy of Mr. Moss's letter is attached for the record. We have never seen or been given the chance to respond to this correspondence before.

The letter is extremely significant for several reasons. But perhaps most important, the letter represents a smoking gun proving the horribly insidious nature of the blacklisting our company has been experiencing at the hands of the FDA and HHS since the time we filed our complaint with your Office.

We strongly suspected but could not prove until seeing a copy of Mr. Moss's April 29th letter that we were being intentionally blacklisted by the FDA. During this very same time period, Dr. Acheson, a highly valued and respected business partner of FoodQuestTQ LLC, sent us the attached letter terminating any relationship with our small company. A copy of our response to Dr. Acheson after our business partnership was terminated is also attached as part of the record.

Yesterday, we spoke directly with Dr. Acheson who confirmed that he participated in a conference call initiated by Mr. Moss and other FDA personnel. The FDA personnel informed Dr. Acheson that they were conducting the "interview" because of FoodQuestTQ's complaints against the FDA.

For the record, no one at FoodQuestTQ would have ever been so witless to solicit, let alone authorize, any contacts whatsoever by the FDA with any of our business partners including Dr. Acheson.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Hnatio, Ed D, PhD
Chief Science Officer

cc:

Dr. David Acheson, Acheson Group
Ms. Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary HHS
Dr. Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner FDA
Ms. Laurie Lenkel, FDA
Mr. Brian Moss, Deputy Ombudsman for Small Business, FDA
Mr. Brian Hall, FDA
Mr. Daniel R. Levinson, Inspector General, HHS
Mr. William Shaub, Director, OGE
Ms. Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Director, OMB
Senator Chuck Grassley (R/IA), U.S. Senate
Representative John Mica (R/FL), U.S. House of Representatives
Yellow Pages Caucus U.S. House of Representatives

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