

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington DC 20201



Via e-mail

September 10, 2013

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

We are a small business located in Frederick, Maryland. In January of this year we reached out to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to work with us to resolve a matter involving the plagiarism of our research and the FDA duplication of our company's computer software.

We have been advised that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is telling others that our company FoodQuestTQ LLC was uncooperative in our dealings with the FDA and HHS in trying to resolve the matter.

We would like to go on the record stating that such statements are misleading.

In fact, it was the refusal of HHS Office of General Counsel to consider the issues of research plagiarism and theft of trade secrets as the mechanism being used by FDA to drive our small company out of business that forced us to request the intervention of the National Ombudsman for Small Business to help mediate the dispute.

As of the date of this letter, we have written to senior officials in the FDA and HHS on at least eight separate occasions requesting the opportunity to meet with FDA/HHS officials to try and resolve this matter. In every case, our requests to meet with FDA/HHS decision makers have been ignored.

We respectfully request that employees of the FDA and HHS cease and desist in making misleading statements regarding our company and the professionalism of our personnel.

Most respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Hnatio".

John H. Hnatio, EdD, PhD  
Chief Science Officer

cc: Ms. Elahe Zahirieh, NOSB