



Council for Responsible Nutrition

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March 30, 2010

The Honorable James W. Miller
Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Mr. James M. Murphy
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Subject: U.S.-Mexico Consultative Committee on Agriculture (CCA)

Dear Under Secretary Miller and Mr. Murphy:

This letter respectfully requests that an important issue of concern to several of our members be added to the agenda and discussed with the Mexican government at the upcoming meeting of the U.S.-Mexico Consultative Committee on Agriculture (CCA).

Attached is a “white paper” which describes the issue and efforts U.S. industry executives and U.S. government officials have taken since 2007 to eliminate the Government of Mexico’s policy of collecting a 16% VAT (16% effective January 1, 2010) on imported nutritional supplements but not on like and directly competitive products produced by Mexican companies. This discriminatory treatment violates Mexico’s trade agreement commitments with the United States and negatively impacts U.S. nutritional product exports.

We believe this issue is appropriate for the President’s National Export Initiative (NEI), as the Administration focuses on the enforcement of existing trade agreements. We look forward to arranging a meeting at your convenience to discuss this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John N. Hathcock".

John Hathcock
Senior Vice President
Scientific and International Affairs
Council for Responsible Nutrition