



August 20, 2013

[Redacted address]

Dear S [Redacted name]



STELLA AMBLER

Member of Parliament
Mississauga South

Thank you for sending me postcards regarding regulation of natural health products in Canada.

Health Canada recognizes that a growing number of Canadians rely on natural health products (NHPs) to achieve their health goals, and that these products are generally low-risk. I use natural health products myself, and I am a strong supporter of natural health and wellness initiatives, products and programs. Our government has listened to consumers like you who want greater access to products while maintaining consumer safety.

Health Canada has, in fact, reduced red tape for companies trying to bring NHPs to market, while maintaining consumer safety and access to a wide selection of products. The results speak for themselves:

- In the first 6 weeks of 2013, more NHPs were approved than during the first two years of the regulations under the former government.
- In the most recent 2 full years of the regulations in 2011-12, 15,343 NHPs were approved - an increase of more than 1300%. The backlog of 10,885 Unprocessed Product License Application Regulations has been reduced to 12 as of February 2013.

The Canadian Health Food Association (CHFA), Canada's largest trade association dedicated to natural health and organic products, has acknowledged this Government's efforts to strengthen and streamline natural health product regulations. Helen Sherrard, CHFA President, has said:

"We appreciate the Government of Canada's efforts to **reduce red tape** while at the same time ensuring Canadians' access to the safe, effective and high quality natural health products was not comprised."
(February 8, 2013)

Constituency Office

260 Lakeshore Road East
Mississauga, ON L5G 1G9
Tel.: 905-278-4111
Fax: 905-278-4440
Toll Free: 1-888-463-1111
Web: www.StellaAmbler.com

Ottawa Office

Room 300, Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-992-4848
Fax: 613-996-3267
Email: stella.ambler@parl.gc.ca

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