

## HELP STOP FAKE, TAINTED, COUNTERFEIT VITAMINS AND HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS

Are you waiting for our politicians to address your long term healthcare issues? Good luck! As far as I can tell as an average senior citizen, politicians on the most part are sincerely dedicated to their own agenda of political power and control rather than being concerned whatsoever for you and your family's wellbeing. Politicians have failed to adhere to the objectives outlined in the Dietary Supplements Act of 1994 which

**Corporate Greed  
Kills More Americans  
Than Terrorists Do**

leave people vulnerable to being poisoned by contaminated supplements.

It's sad to say - but true. Fact is - average citizens can and would prevent common diseases, allergies and ailments quite easily through simple lifestyle changes, but we don't easily find out how to live better and longer from most of the mass media or social media we watch, read and listen to. Call it what you want but it is commercial propaganda slanted by the influence of Big Pharma & corporate profits that compromise our well being. We name several natural practitioners, physicians supplement suppliers in this writing who may promote licensed legitimate authentic vitamins and natural health supplements but they don't even reveal the source of their ingredients. We also report on those corporate cheaters who just steal our money and good health. Did you know that numerous indigenous peoples and significant numbers of rural people live to be 100 years old or more disease free in some parts of the world? How? It is a fact that's documented by the (WHO) World Health Organization research and the (WTO) World Trade Organization. Well, that's our goal as well - to help prevent common diseases, feel better and live longer.

Obviously, the bottom line is, we are what we eat! The closer you are to a local grower-farmer who produces chemical free food, fruits, vegetables, herbs and tea products the better chances you have to avoid toxic exposure, chemical contamination and various forms of bacteria that can lead to diseases. I recall in late 2001 or so a local health food store chain owner in Hawaii said to me, "You'd be better off to eat the box vs. what's in it when it comes to most of these health supplements on the shelves" – as he waved his hand across a wall of shelves. Wow! I thought to myself, really? How could this be? ... Why? I was at his Kona, Hawaii shop to share a sachet of a rare adaptogenic longevity health herbal tea that I came across in Thailand in 2000 called Kwao Krua. I brought samples back to Kealahou, Hawaii to my Paradisemoon Herbs & Teas Boutique shop along with a several other rare southeast Asian natural herbs and teas. Little did I know that I was already on the path to the most alarming discovery and challenge in my life with regard to a corrupt vitamins, supplements and health food industry.

This perplexity has evolved to the **GoFundMe** campaign described herein designed to address a crisis of an alarming magnitude that poses a serious health threat to all consumers in terms of safely purchasing authentic chemical free GMP manufactured vitamins and health food supplements that we all consume.

The fact is, the vitamins and food supplements industry is mostly about profits, and I mean billions of dollars of annual profits, "valued at 707.12 billion U.S. dollars in 2016 and projected to increase up to 811.82 trillion U.S. dollars by 2021". [<https://www.statista.com/statistics/502267/global-health-and-wellness-food-market-value/>]

Typically, a legitimate licensed manufacturer and/or distributor desires to buy low and sell high. This is capitalism and OK to a degree, but there should be the highest level of integrity and a fair middle ground pricing because it's our personal health, wellbeing and that of our family's lives and longevity that we're addressing here. The US Congress has procrastinated now for 26 years while 22,000 people annually end up in emergency rooms poisoned by unregulated dietary supplements being distributed by our favorite on-line web portals.

People generally buy supplements with hope and faith they'll enjoy some level of improved wellness, good health, fitness and longevity benefits, yet the new generation of hi-tech on-line giants like **Amazon, eBay, Etsy, Lasada, Aliexpress** and others have taken total advantage of consumers by circumventing the rules and regulations such as US FDA import regulations and standardized labeling guidelines as well as US Customs import regulations. I'd hope that most people care about this issue because the greedy money-mongers who peddle black market, undocumented, fake & counterfeit vitamins and health supplements worldwide are the same shady characters who have successfully teamed up with these hi-tech giants like **Amazon.com, eBay.com, Etsy.com** and numerous others who employ the hidden secretive **private seller stores** on-line marketing scheme that has emerged over the past decade or more.

The fact is these multi-billion dollar hi-tech corps found a simple and convenient [cash cow] loophole flaw in the US import systems, hence they are able to freely invite any and all 'private sellers' qualified or not to supply millions of consumers with undocumented black market, fake, tainted and/or counterfeit health & vitamin supplements on these hi-tech web portals because they are not specifically required under the Dietary Supplement Act of 1994 laws to reveal the true identity of the Private Sellers, hence they are able to conceal undesirable unlicensed, fake & black market sellers from the FDA and sell these products to us.

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## **In the most materialistic society on Earth, Jeff Bezos has a near-monopoly on your purchase habits through Amazon.com – including bogus nutritional products**

01/07/2017 / By S.D. Wells

**Only God knows** what these products really contain or what garage they were manufactured in. This is why we global consumers fail to get a fair shake in terms of transparency of exactly where the vitamins and health food supplements really came from when we purchase our nutritional, health and vitamin supplements from the oh-so-convenient and cheap on-line giants.

Consumers basically want instant access, a quick easy purchase, free shipping and most of all a low price. Hark . . . Amazon, eBay, Etsy, Lazada, Aliexpress and other corporate portals to the rescue! The hi-tech multinational corporations I refer to herein embrace the excuse they can't possibly screen and verify the integrity of all the supplements products they sell on line. They claim there are just too many products to review and properly scrutinize so they (like US FDA) prefer to wait to hear from consumer complaints prior to taking any action to examine a supplier's credentials, and that means these complaints generally produce zero results.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 our legal team notified the legal departments at Amazon, Mr. David A. Zapolsky, V.P. & General Counsel and eBay, Ms. Mary Oh Huber, SVP & General Counsel both via registered letters from our Thailand law firm officially informing them that they were apparently trafficking illegal black market unlicensed Thai health vitamins and supplements. We suggested we assist them to generate a "white list" of screened Thailand sellers who were in fact legitimate companies and FDA/GMP licensed to sell these products under Thai law. In both cases these multi-national companies chose to ignore our documents/information and requests to cease and desist distributing undocumented black market health supplements, although we continued to attempt to call them on the telephone with no success for almost a full year before contacting the US FDA (DHHS) Investigators at the US Department of Health and Human Services.

**The fact is, the US FDA and US Customs have very good automated systems in place for legitimate importers to properly register with US FDA and US Customs.** It's somewhat tedious but basically quite free and easy for qualified companies to participate in a legal and professional manner to register safe, licensed, GMP manufactured products for import.

### **TITLE III--IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF IMPORTED FOOD**

[Sec. 301. Foreign supplier verification program.](#)

[Sec. 302. Voluntary qualified importer program.](#)

[Sec. 303. Authority to require import certifications for food.](#)

[Sec. 304. Prior notice of imported food shipments.](#)

[Sec. 305. Building capacity of foreign governments with respect to food safety.](#)

[Sec. 306. Inspection of foreign food facilities.](#)

[Sec. 307. Accreditation of third-party auditors.](#)

[Sec. 308. Foreign offices of the Food and Drug Administration.](#)

[Sec. 309. Smuggled food.](#)

Prior Notice Compliance System, and electronic PREDICT (Predictive Risk-based Evaluation for Dynamic Import Compliance Targeting) system and US Customs. In many cases the illicit health supplement products sold to consumers are also in violation of US FDA product labeling guidelines.

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/ICECI/ComplianceManuals/RegulatoryProceduresManual/UCM074300.pdf>

The new dynamic import system at US FDA/US Customs called **PREDICT** automatically examines each shipment's documents integrity and puts up a red flag for human intervention/examination if the goods appear to be of questionable or undocumented origin. This does not apply to giant on-line marketers like Amazon & eBay because they are simply retail (on-line) stores - NOT manufacturer importers!

The real problem is the vitamins and health supplements being sold on the most popular on-line marketing platforms in the world - that average citizens trust to buy from like Amazon, eBay, Etsy and others **have not been screened whatsoever** to establish any credible much less critical evaluation or examination of what the product contains or where or how the product was manufactured which the Dietary Supplement Act lists #1-15 program objectives in §2. Findings, US 103rd Congress Public Law 103-417 - 26 years ago!  
[https://ods.od.nih.gov/About/DSHEA\\_Wording.aspx](https://ods.od.nih.gov/About/DSHEA_Wording.aspx)

**Legitimate manufactures must adhere to the US FDA GMP guidelines and manufacture in clean and properly licensed GMP facilities.** That is precisely why we began investigating this issue in Thailand back in 2015, when I was asked to assist my Thailand organic grower-farmer business associate to set up a US-Thai Amity Trade company under the long time US-Thai Amity Trade Agreement. This is when and where I discovered blatant corporate fraud and illegal food smuggling activity being perpetrated against American and foreign consumers who are purchasing from these internet giants.

There are numerous prestigious physicians like **Dr. Jill Carahan**,  
<https://www.jillcarnahan.com/2018/02/17/fake-supplement-issue-no-one-talking-beware-amazon/>

**Dr Marilyn Glenville PhD**, the UK's leading nutritionist specializing in women's health,  
<https://www.marilynglenville.com/beware-fake-health-supplements-amazon/>

**Dr Sanford Schwartz, B.S.** (Nutrition & Management), M.S. (Dietetics & Management) M.H. (Master of Herbal Medicine), and N.D. (Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine) Degree from Anglo-American University, U.K.

**D. Garry Gordon, GARRY F. GORDON, MD, DO, MD(H)** known as the Father of Chelation  
<https://gordonresearch.net>

**Prof. Keith Scott-Mumby, MD, MB ChB, PhD** <https://drkeithsown.com>,

plus renowned journalist-practitioners who have written about this issue of fake goods **such as former US FDA Investigator turned author & health advocate, Gary Collins, MS.**

<https://www.thesimplelifefor.com/why-you-should-never-buy-supplements-on-amazon-or-ebay-a-must-read-by-former-fda-special-agent-gary-collins>.

The fraud and counterfeit products statistics are alarming to say the least. In one story, a federal investigation found that a whopping 43% of popular items sold on Amazon, eBay, Walmart and Sears Marketplace were counterfeit. Others claim much higher percentages.

Read **Dr. David Rostollan's article**, <http://reforminghealth.com/counterfeit-supplements/>

Before getting into further details about fake, undocumented and/or the fraudulent health supplements industry that we spend billions of dollars on annually, I wish to simply expose the precise process and methodology that has enabled these multibillion dollar hi-tech giants to take advantage of the average family's wellbeing - hence cheating anyone and everyone out of their money and basic human right to a fair honest choice blurred by the murky secretive nicknamed **private seller store** scheme of low priced undocumented, counterfeit, fake vitamins, black market health nutritional products health food supplements.

The US FDA has fairly strict GMP (good manufacturing practices) regulations and supplement labeling guidelines which are not currently being adhered to with any of the black market products sold on Amazon, eBay Etsy and others because these hi-tech portals don't reveal who the private sellers are and the on-line retail store marketers who sell to consumers are not subject to the import laws that govern foreign manufacturer-importers. The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 states GMP standards for dietary supplements apply to all domestic and foreign companies that manufacture, package, label, or hold a dietary supplement for import and sale in any state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. This includes those involved with testing, quality control, packaging and labeling, and distribution of dietary supplements, **but excludes retail establishments that are solely involved in the direct sale of dietary supplements to individual consumers.** This is precisely how the hi-tech internet giants operate but they are in fact breaking the law and ultimately, its clearly illegal!



**So, just where is our US FTC, FDA and Health & Human Services representatives (DHHS) when we need them?** The fact is the US FDA and FTC does have warnings on their web sites and people can and do file complaints. Do these agencies listen? Possibly. We filed a complaint with DHHS FDA Special Investigator John Lewis in 2016 and with the FTC and were basically just put off and nothing happened, yet I know for a fact these govt agencies are overwhelmed with many cases of fake and counterfeit imports at US Customs. In fact, we wrote numerous letters and contacted countless people and organizations in the beginning starting with the legal departments at Amazon, eBay, and on to the US FDA, US FTC, and the Thailand Inspector General Office as well as the US State Department liaison office in Bangkok, Thailand plus several local and international law firms.

**Obviously lobbying in America has had a direct effect on 'the powers that be' in the government and some in powerful positions may just choose to conveniently 'turn a blind eye' to certain corporate behaviors . . . especially if they are big (political) contributors.** The word lobbyist was coined during the Ulysses S. Grant administration. It was said that President Grant used to come to the hotel's lobby to have a brandy and a cigar and was often surrounded by petitioners who eventually became known as 'lobbyists'. The fact is, the US Constitution guarantees all of us the right to 'lobby', along with the right to practice religion freely, to express our opinions in public and to rally for a cause. It's all in the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances".

So, there you go. The almighty buck definitely talks and this fact ultimately has a substantial negative impact on the average consumer's good health and wellbeing who unknowingly purchases fake, counterfeit, undocumented and sometimes tainted vitamins and food supplements. So, what we wish to do is initiate a Petition to Congress and follow through with the proper legal action against those in violation of the law.

At this juncture, I believe it will take a powerful legal team to generate a clear and concise 'legal brief' and 'discovery' documents in a criminal complaint to US Federal prosecutors in Washington, D.C. (i.e. a professionally prepared legal document for purported Unfair Trade Practices, Anti-Trust and/or RICO ACT (racketeering) violations, and ultimately the US Attorney General or an Assistant Attorney General of the United States shall make a fair and balanced judgment to prosecute, bring to a Grand Jury, or take appropriate criminal action under the Rico Act.

This is a legal matter that requires highly specialized expertise across several legal platforms and far beyond our ability, basic knowledge and lack of legal expertise or financial wherewithal. The hi-tech on-line sellers I refer to herein have BIG money to fight and stall any opposition in order to maintain their lofty illegal yet extremely profitable position, but there is no valid or legal reason why they should be able to circumvent the FDA/US Customs Quality Assurance vetting systems and continue to import fake and/or counterfeit vitamins and supplements into their warehouses through the US postal system . . . but that is precisely what's going on.

It hurts everyone in the 'food chain' from consumers all the way back to the small organic farmer-grower-manufacturer like the company I represent in Thailand, QHH Farms who are in fact fully licensed and qualified to manufacture and sell pure natural organic health and vitamin health supplements, but they can hardly compete when the big multinational corporations circumvent all the laws of the land and bypass America's import vetting systems.

I have spoken with two prestigious international law firms which we believe each of whom are quite capable to bring this issue to a successful conclusion. They are; **Kirkland & Ellis, Washington DC office**, and **Baker & McKenzie Ltd. Law Offices, Bangkok, Thailand**. These are powerful yet expensive law firms.

On March 20th 2018 we successfully launched a full investigation with the Thailand Inspector General's Office at the Ministry of Public Health with the aid of Khun Pornapa Luengwattanakit, Partner, Baker & McKenzie, Ltd. Bangkok, Thailand. On December 9<sup>th</sup> 2018, our assistant legal representative (paralegal) received notice from the Thai FDA Center for Complaint and Suppression of Offenses on Health Products, Healthcare Product Surveillance and Compliance Center re our complaint number: 1022/61, [contact person: [Kanokwan Nornak](#); Head of Complaint section], and she indicated that our complaint was found to be true and accurate with regard to the unlicensed, undocumented Thai health supplement products being sold on Amazon, eBay, Etsy and other multinational portals. Action is now in progress in Thailand but the investigation was somewhat thwarted by the fact the Thai sellers are nested in hidden private sellers stores and basically impossible to identify . . . but, the USA and Thailand have a 100 year old **Amity Trade Agreement** amended in 1996 that also needs updating.

A primarily agricultural based economy, Thailand offers an abundance of unique rich 100% natural native Thai health food supplements and raw materials not necessarily available elsewhere in the world - yet when we brought this issue to their attention in 2016, the Thai FDA licensing representatives vaguely knew anything about the Thai underground US export activity taking place with Amazon, eBay, Etsy and others with respect to illegal black market Thai supplements exports.

Thai FDA agents later confirmed none of the products we shared with them were licensed by Thailand Ministry of Public Health, FDA.

Naturally, the Thai Ministry of Public Health, FDA's main focus is to protect Thai citizens from tainted and dangerous health supplements. Recently they had very serious incident wherein a Thai celebrity was selling Fentanyl laced dietary supplements (a synthetic opioid that is 80-100 times stronger than morphine) on Facebook and several Thai citizens died.



The Amity Trade agreement between Thailand and the USA essentially infers reciprocal adherence to each of our laws in the course of conducting international trade. And while it's true that the US FDA has an entirely different and far less stringent set of rules for dietary supplements relative to prescription or over-the-counter drugs, **manufacturers of vitamins and supplements for the US are required by law to follow detailed Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for composition and purity that would be expected of any legitimate food manufacturing company.**

Nevertheless, these unscrupulous multibillion dollar hi-tech marketers have devised an illegal means to circumvent the vetting systems – so fake, unlicensed, black market products slip through the cracks and are often found to contain bacteria, illegal drugs and adulterated or alternative ingredients included in the products, particularly in weight loss supplements, male libido enhancement products, and bodybuilding products. **Amazon, eBay Etsy and others private seller store scheme blatantly encourages both Thai and foreign citizens to break the laws of Thailand** by circumventing the Thai FDA, (DBD) Department of Business Development business licensing laws, and the Thai FDA/GMP manufacturing and labeling regulations. It further violates Thailand Customs export laws by encouraging anyone and everyone to illegally ship small boxes of undocumented black market food supplement products through Thai Post to the US postal system.

The end result is what you see for sale on these mostly US based hi-tech international portals – unlicensed, undocumented, fake and counterfeit products being openly distributed by these multi-billion dollar marketers.

After nearly four years of spearheading this most complex web of illegal activity regarding authentic Thai vitamins and health supplements vs. counterfeit and or black market undocumented supplements, we now approach each of you global citizens with this **GoFundMe** platform and seek your support to take affirmative action.

Any contribution is helpful. I propose that we take the following steps;

- (1) We begin raising legal assistance funds in the amount of \$200,000 to 1,000,000 USD estimated.
- (2) Hire a qualified 3rd party US CPA firm for accurate accounting of our funds;
- (3) Select the ideal professional law firms previously mentioned to prepare a detailed legal brief and discovery to bring to the US Attorney General or an assistant US attorney general in Washington D.C. to seek an immediate Cease & Desist Order and launch an investigation.
- (4) Submit our legal brief and discovery to the US Attorney General with the aim to initiate a Grand Jury inquiry.
- (5) Establish a lobbying committee to gather the required number of signatures for a *Call-To-Action* Petition to Congress to address unfinished business from the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 - Public Law 103-417 - 103rd Congress.

#### **Potential outcome**

- (1) We desire to first obtain an immediate Cease and Desist Order to stop the illegal import/distribution of black market and/or counterfeit health supplements to Amazon, eBay and Etsy and others.
- (2) Our legal representatives will research and advise the best means to resolve the illegal import issue and determine the legal options we have as citizens for any/all potential restitution for monies spent on fake goods and sums to be calculated for repayment to the Thai government in the aggregate amount of one billion USD. It is a documented fact that poachers threaten the existence of rare traditional Thai botanical species by encroaching, harvesting, hence damaging Thailand's rain-forests - a crime against humanity.

Additionally, we believe these companies and the individuals who are actively participating in poaching, smuggling, trafficking in and distributing illegal health vitamins and supplements should potentially be prosecuted under the **RICO ACT** (racketeering) guidelines and face criminal charges.

The most widely used subsection of the civil portion of RICO is 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c), which makes it "unlawful for any person employed by or associated with any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of such enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity or collection of unlawful debt." In other words, if you are involved with a group of people who use an organization for purposes that are illegal under U.S. law, there is a chance you are violating RICO. RICO's broad definition and legal application have become a trap for the unwitting foreigner. While the foreigner's illegal conduct might take place almost entirely overseas, U.S. courts have proved themselves willing to apply RICO whenever possible".

We all know by now we are what we eat so those who provide our vitamins, foods and nutritional supplements products are critical to our general well-being and longevity as well as that of our loved ones. The unique rare herbs, fruits, flowers and plant compounds that I personally believe in so much that are native to southeast Asia have hundreds if not thousands of years of successful use in traditional folklore remedies. Oh but sorry, I can't say the words 'traditional medicine' because it's against US FDA regulations to mention any potential medical health benefits a natural food supplement may offer, thanks to our lobbyist friends who represent the Big Pharma which dominates the mass media with pharmaceutical drugs they clearly advertise as being dangerous and deadly . . . so we'll just say these natural herbs, fruits, flowers and teas are excellent for improved energy, vitality, wellbeing and longevity. That's somewhat acceptable verbiage/jargon under today's US FDA guidelines.

I urge each of you to contribute whatever you can be it one dollar, twenty or more and help us put a stop to the import and distribution of illegal, black market and/or counterfeit vitamins and supplements now! I also seek your assistance and signature on our proposed Petition to Congress.

Neither, I or any of our company associate representatives will accept/receive one single penny of the **GOFUNDME** funding monies that we wish to generate on this platform which is primarily targeted for high level professional legal fees in petitioning against the hi-tech traffickers of illicit vitamins and food supplements and additional promotional materials to help us get the word out to citizens globally.

I thank you for reading, participating and contributing in this worthy cause.

The small companies like the organic grower-manufacturers I mentioned whom I represent will do just fine and bring customers fully licensed fresh clean GMP certified organic products at a fair market prices.

**Right now it is a black market of dangerous fake, unlicensed, undocumented counterfeit and tainted products being sold by Amazon, eBay, Etsy, Lazada, Aliexpress and others because their technology has out maneuvered and circumvented the FDA guidelines and import-export systems.**

Sincerely,

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