**RE: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) widely referred to as "mad cow disease".**

**There has been a growing concern about the safety of dietary supplements and their connection to a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) caused by BSE.**

**Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is a rare and fatal brain condition that German researchers had discovered in the 1920's. The variant caused by BSE is similar to the original with nearly identical symptoms: rapidly progressive pre-senile dementia, abnormal contraction of the muscles or portions of muscles, and progressive motor dysfunction.**

**No one can pinpoint just how BSE first emerged, but twentieth century farming practices helped spread it from a few cows to the virtual epidemic it is today. For 11 year after the 1984 episode on a Great Britain farm that took the lives of nine cows, British exporters shipped the remains of BSE-infected cows all over the world as cattle feed.**

**BSE was not initially detected in the United States. It appears the United States took sufficient proactive measures. In the years since BSE was first recognized and barred the use of domestic ruminants in cattle feed as well. Most experts believe that United States has the safeguards in place to prevent widespread outbreaks.**

**Since its inception, N4S has been committed to customers' satisfaction as well as customers safety. In continuation of this commitment, N4S has requested and received letters of assurance from all of its manufacturers and/or suppliers of ingredients and components used mainly in its private label products like, but not limited to capsules/ soft gels, & other bovine ingredients.**

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**That provides a guarantee that our supplier's raw materials are BSE-free.**

**The American Feed Industry Association is currently campaigning its members to voluntarily create separate "production lines" within their factories to prevent the commingling of ingredients intended for incorporation into products intended for ruminant or human consumption with ingredients intended for incorporation into products for other animals. All of N4S suppliers have already instituted this practice.**

**Furthermore, N4S does not represent raw materials from any manufacturer that uses raw material from Great Britain (Including Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands), Switzerland, France, the Republic of Ireland, Oman or Portugal; countries in which BSE has been detected.**

**N4S's commitment to its customers extends to all of its represented products, and N4S will continue to represent &and/or only safe & high quality ingredients.**

**Sincerely,**

*Mary Hasrouni Abifadel*

**Mary Hasrouni AbiFadel**
**President/CEO**

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