

Letters

READERS TALK BACK

Nutrilite

In your article "Enjoy Your Food Flavors—But With a Grain of Salt" [November issue] you called Nutrilite Food Supplement a "phony elixir" and reported that the Food and Drug Administration had "cracked down" and "put the brakes on" it.

These statements are unfair and inaccurate. It is true that FDA had charged us with making false and misleading claims. But we had in the same litigation accused FDA of wrongful and illegal conduct. The final settlement was by a consent decree which made no findings on the charges of either side. In it we agreed not to make certain therapeutic claims. However, a three-judge federal court had previously found we had not made such claims. To us the most significant feature of this consent decree is that it gives us a long list of government-approved claims that we can make for Nutrilite. Far from having "put the brakes on" us, we consider this consent decree to have vindicated our product and our company.

Nutrilite is a nationally known, fairly priced and accurately labeled vitamin and mineral concentrate which is widely used as a dietary supplement. Your article itself recognizes that "certain nutrients are sometimes lacking in the soil," that "over-refinement of foods can be bad," and that "thousands of people's diets are unbalanced and inadequate." We think these facts

establish that there is a place for products such as ours. We are proud of Nutrilite and proud of its success.

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