



December 18, 2018

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

On behalf of Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio), Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) and the below signatories, we commend you and the Administration on the recent United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). We are encouraged by the progress made toward establishing vital intellectual property (IP) protections. These new standards will drive investment, innovation, exports, and bioscience job creation for U.S. innovators – the lifeblood of America’s economy.

This agreement raises standards for trade policy, particularly in the life sciences sector, and sets high minimum standards and expectations for our trading partners to value American innovation.

The biopharmaceutical industry is vital to America’s economic growth, and in 2015 alone, generated 77.4 billion dollars in revenue for the United States. The industry also provides more than \$85 billion dollars in opportunities for local company vendors and suppliers.

In the United States, there is a critical, and productive relationship between early stage researchers, private drug developers, and manufacturers that requires risky investment, collaboration, and innovation. The USMCA builds on America’s leadership in medical innovation, and will encourage more collaboration and productivity for future cures.

Innovation is the key to finding cures for some of the most devastating diseases patients face. Successful implementation of the USMCA will allow drug manufacturers to continue investing in research and development to find cures. There are more than 900 biologic medicines being developed to treat Alzheimer’s disease, cardiovascular disease, and other illnesses that have no current treatment options.

Aside from encouraging innovation, the agreement is also a valuable step that will help further stimulate the economy and create more American jobs. In 2015, the biopharmaceutical industry supported nearly 5 million total jobs, employing Americans across the country in a variety of industry subsectors. In fact, the biopharmaceutical industry employs more manufacturing R&D workers (at over 1,000 plants around the U.S.) than other industries (13 percent), followed by semiconductors (11 percent), and autos (10 percent).

And, in 2017, the total value of goods and services supported by the biopharmaceutical sector totaled 1.3 trillion dollars, with more than 50 billion dollars in exports. The USMCA will lead to continued success in this space, and enable the sector to grow and develop more products for patients. This will increase competitiveness and more options for patients and payers in the future.

We applaud your support of intellectual property rights and for negotiating a trade deal that will promote innovation and spur economic growth. The USMCA is an important milestone, as it demonstrates the Administration’s dedication to making sure the United States remains the world’s leader in pharmaceutical and scientific progress – and works to level the playing field with our trading partners. This agreement will create jobs in the bioscience industry and contribute to manufacturers’ valuable research and development initiatives to develop medicines that save lives and improve the health of patients in America and around the world.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephen Rapundalo in black ink.

Stephen Rapundalo, PhD
President and CEO

Michigan Biosciences Industry Association

Handwritten signature of Thomas R. Kowalski in black ink.

Tom Kowalski
President and CEO

Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute

Arizona Bioindustry Association
Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO)
Bio Nebraska Life Sciences Association
BioAlabama
Biocom
BioFlorida
BioForward Wisconsin
BioKansas
BioNJ
BionorthTX
BioOhio
Bioscience Association of North Dakota
Bioscience Association of West Virginia
BioUtah
California Life Sciences Association - CLSA
Center for Healthcare Innovation
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut
Clinical Innovations
Colorado BioScience Association
Colorado Business Roundtable
Colorado Chamber of Commerce
Connecticut Bioscience Growth Council
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Connecticut Petroleum Council
Connecticut Retail Merchants Association
Delaware Academy of Medicine
Delaware BioScience Association
Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Georgia Bio
Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce
Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey
iBIO
Idaho Technology Council
Illinois Manufacturers' Association
Indiana Health Industry Forum
INDUNIV Research Center, Inc.
Iowa Biotechnology Association
Kentucky Life Sciences Council
Life Science TN
Life Science Washington
Life Sciences Pennsylvania
Louisiana BIO
Manufacture Alabama
Maryland Technology Council
Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives
MedMates
MedTech Association
Missouri Biotechnology Association
Montana BioScience Alliance
NC Chamber
New Castle County Chamber of Commerce
New Castle County Economic Development Council
New England Biotechnology Association
New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC)
NMBio
North Carolina Biosciences Organization
North Texas Commission
Oregon Bioscience Association
Rio Grande Valley Partnership
SCBIO
Schaefer Technologies, Inc.
Shoreline Chamber of Commerce
South Dakota Biotech Association
South Shore Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Bio
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Hispanic Chamber