Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2012

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you today on behalf of the tens of thousands of Massachusetts workers employed in the bioscience industry. As you continue the next round of negotiations towards the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement, we hope you will propose a high standard of intellectual property rights for biologics, which is consistent with the 12 years of exclusivity under U.S. law.

The bioscience industry in Massachusetts directly employs more than 48,000 workers, and was one of just a few employment sectors in the Commonwealth that continued to grow throughout the recession. For the more than 500 biotech and pharmaceutical companies in Massachusetts, global protection of their intellectual property rights is critical to their ability to compete around the world. Achieving an intellectual property standard consistent with U.S. law in the TPP Agreement will ensure that companies from throughout Massachusetts can continue to invest in innovation and continue to grow jobs.

We applaud your commitment to reaching a trade pact that will benefit all Americans, and hope that the final version of the TPP Agreement will include clear, enforceable intellectual property rights. An agreement that reflects U.S. law on biologics exclusivity standards will help Massachusetts companies continue to expand and compete in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal

Member of Congress

John W. Olver

John W. Olver Member of Congress

John F. Tierney Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas Member of Congress dames P. McGovern Member of Congress

Slephen Lynch

Member of Congress

William Keating

Member of Congress