

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

July 6, 2012

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

On behalf of President Obama, I would like to thank you for your recent letter emphasizing the importance of securing strong levels of intellectual property protection in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). I can assure you that creating a climate for enhancing innovation is a priority in the TPP negotiations, and that we will expect all of our TPP partners to participate fully in that effort.

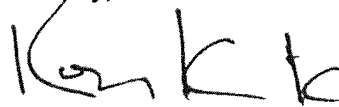
Effective intellectual property rights protection and enforcement, including regulatory data protection for biopharmaceutical products, is an important element in encouraging innovation in new technologies, and will stimulate investment in research and development, facilitate exports of U.S. products and contribute to the creation of American jobs. Indeed, intellectual property plays an important role in providing the incentives necessary for the development and marketing of new medicines. An effective, transparent, and predictable intellectual property system is necessary for both manufacturers of innovative medicines and manufacturers of generic medicines.

The Asia-Pacific region has significant economic importance to the United States today and also represents tremendous potential for future growth markets for U.S. ranchers, farmers, businesses and service providers. Our goal in the TPP negotiations is to achieve high standards of intellectual property protection and enforcement in the Asia-Pacific region that will stand alongside previous U.S. trade agreements in the region, such as the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

With respect to biopharmaceutical products, we are seeking in the TPP to deploy the tools of trade policy to promote trade in, and reduce obstacles to, access to both innovative and generic medicines, while supporting the innovation and intellectual property protection that is vital to developing new medicines and achieving other medical breakthroughs.

We value the input you have provided and we will continue to consult closely with you and your colleagues as we progress in these negotiations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Kirk", written in a cursive style.

Ambassador Ron Kirk