

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

June 15, 2012

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

Thank you for your recent letter welcoming the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations to Texas, and emphasizing the importance of securing strong levels of intellectual property (IP) protection. I can assure you that I share your enthusiasm not only for the venue, but also for the importance of using the TPP to foster a climate for enhancing innovation.

Effective IP protection and enforcement, including regulatory data protection for biopharmaceutical products, are important factors 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, IP 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.

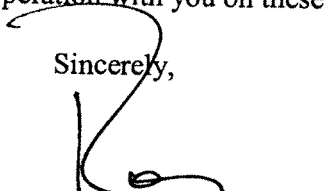
The Asia-Pacific region has significant economic importance to the United States today and shows tremendous potential for future growth markets for U.S. ranchers, farmers, businesses and service providers. Our goal in the TPP negotiations is to achieve high standards of IP protection and enforcement in the Asia-Pacific region that will stand alongside previous U.S. FTAs in the region, such as the Korea-U.S. FTA.

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 IP protection that is vital to developing new medicines and achieving other medical breakthroughs.

We value the input you have provided and we will remain in close consultation with you and your colleagues as we progress in these negotiations.

I looking forward to continued close cooperation with you on these issues.

Sincerely,


Ambassador Ron Kirk