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COMMITTEES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2012

Honorable Ron Kirk
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk,

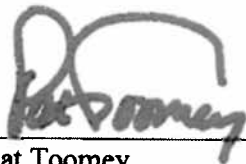
We write to you in advance of next month's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations in New Zealand. While we may disagree on the merits of this proposed trade partnership, we both urge that you negotiate adequate data protection for biologics.

The U.S. biologics industry is a true success story in an otherwise slow economic recovery. Last year, the biologics industry grew by 6.5% in the United States alone. Pennsylvania's biopharmaceutical industry supports over 189,000 jobs and \$48.6 billion in economic output and is consistently ranked among the top 10 states in the nation for biopharmaceutical exports, totaling over \$2 billion per year. The prospects of future innovations in the biologics sector only provide more opportunities for jobs and growth in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States.

As you know, biologics are afforded 12 years of regulatory data protection under U.S. law. This level of protection is the result of an intense bipartisan negotiation that took into account the needs of this growing domestic industry.

With that in mind, we hope you will direct your negotiating team to push for strong data protection standards in the TPP. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Senator Pat Toomey



Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.