

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

OCT - 5 2012

The Honorable Tom Coburn, M.D.
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

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

Effective IPR 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, IPR plays an important role in providing the incentives necessary for the development and marketing of new medicines. An effective, transparent, and predictable IP system is necessary for both manufacturers of innovative medicines and manufacturers of generic medicines. 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. Trade Agreements in the region, such as the Korea-U.S. 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 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