

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCE
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Ambassador Froman,

We write today to reinforce the importance of securing strong intellectual property rights protections in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), specifically 12 years of data protection for biologic medicines.

As you know, 12 years is US law and is the result of a carefully developed bipartisan compromise reflective of the amount of time economists estimate it takes to recoup the substantial investments companies make in biopharmaceutical research. Data protection also adds a critical safeguard for biologic treatments that may only be protected by weaker process patents, as opposed to traditional patents on single molecule drugs that are chemically synthesized.

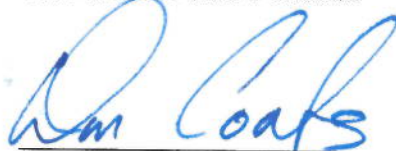
The U.S. innovative biologics industry supports 3.4 million U.S. jobs and exports over \$50 billion worth of medicines each year. These treatments offer new hope to patients suffering from cancer, arthritis, and rare diseases – but they require substantial investment. Biologics are the future of medicine but are riskier endeavors with lower success rates than traditional treatment options. Not offering adequate protections that will continue to spur innovation and investment will ultimately lead to companies taking fewer risks, and patients globally not receiving treatments that may have been developed under an appropriate standard. We strongly believe that standard should be 12 years.

Thank you for your efforts to open up markets for American goods and services.

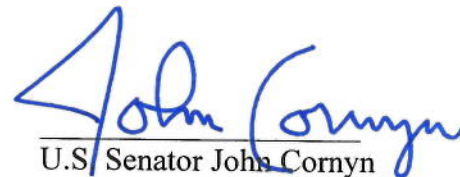
Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Rob Portman



U.S. Senator Dan Coats




U.S. Senator John Cornyn

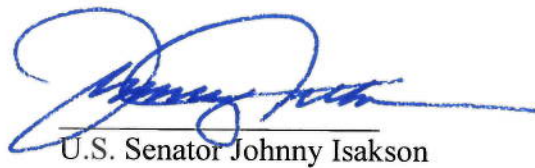


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