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Washington

May 27, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your commitment to keeping America competitive and focused on creating jobs and opportunity for growth. This letter relates to your ongoing negotiations for a Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement with our commercial partners in Asia and the Americas.

Among your priorities for these negotiations, we ask that you include very strong intellectual property rights provisions, consistent with U.S. law, for protecting the investments of our innovative, intellectual property-intensive sectors, such as biopharmaceuticals.

The biopharmaceutical sector and other IP-intensive sectors depend heavily on their ability to secure and enforce intellectual property rights for a fair playing field with competitors. This requires that other governments implement systems, as the United States has done for all persons regardless of their citizenship, which protect their innovation rights. As you know, the biopharmaceutical sector supports 3.1 million jobs in America. A commitment to these standards will preempt non-tariff trade barriers that effectively delay or deny patients' access to life-saving medicines.

We appreciate your support and shared goal of strengthening our nation's innovation economy.

Sincerely,

Governor Martin O'Malley
Maryland

Governor John Hickenlooper
Colorado

Governor Dan Malloy
Connecticut

Governor Jack Markell
Delaware



Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts



Governor Bev Perdue
North Carolina



Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Washington

cc: Ambassador Ron Kirk, USTR