

**Arkansas Colorado Iowa Massachusetts New Jersey North Carolina
Oklahoma Washington**

August 10, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to encourage further progress in opening up global markets via the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement so Americans can compete effectively in a global economy.

In the upcoming September TPP negotiations, we respectfully ask that you include strong intellectual property (IP) rights provisions to protect the investments of our innovative, IP-intensive sectors, such as biopharmaceuticals. Protecting IP helps maintain the levels of research and development investment required for developing new medicines including biologics. Given the substantial complexities of bringing biologics to market and the significant investment required to establish, and sustain development, it is critical that the TPP include 12 years of biologics data protection as found in U.S. law.

Currently, America's biopharmaceutical research companies have 901 biotechnology medicines and vaccines in development targeting more than 100 debilitating and life-threatening diseases, including 352 for cancer and related conditions, 188 for infectious diseases, 69 for autoimmune diseases, and 59 for cardiovascular diseases.

The biopharmaceutical sector and other IP-intensive sectors depend heavily on secure, enforceable, IP 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, to protect IP. As you know, the biopharmaceutical sector supports approximately 4 million jobs in America. A commitment to these standards, and current U.S. law, 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,




Mike Beebe
Governor of Arkansas



John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado



Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa



Deval Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts



Chris Christie
Governor of New Jersey



Bev Perdue
Governor of North Carolina



Mary Fallin
Governor of Oklahoma



Chris Gregoire
Governor of Washington