

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2012

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500


Dear Mr. President:


We strongly support your work to advance the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. TPP presents U.S. manufacturers, businesses and workers with the opportunity to increase exports and compete globally. Our ability to help American innovators and businesses thrive relies heavily on opening new markets and reducing barriers to existing ones.

As part of the TPP negotiations, we urge you to ensure high intellectual property (IP) standards are included in any TPP agreement. These standards should include robust intellectual property rights for biologics, including the 12-year data protection found in U.S. law. Protections such as these are vital to industries like the U.S. biopharmaceutical industry, which employ and support thousands of workers across the U.S., including the estimated 20,000 jobs in the state of Delaware.

As you work to make progress on the TPP agreement in the upcoming negotiating round in Dallas, we hope you will preserve high intellectual property protections that are important to American workers and businesses. We look forward to continuing to work with you on a 21<sup>st</sup> century TPP agreement.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Tom Carper

  
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Senator Christopher A. Coons