

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1316**

February 18, 2011

The Honorable Demetrios Marantis  
Deputy United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Marantis:

As you advance negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) this year, I would like to share some initial concerns and priorities. First, given that so much of America's comparative advantage globally is based on its intellectual property rights, it is important that the TPP agreement include the highest IP standards, such as those in the recently completed Korea-US FTA. U.S. jobs and exports literally depend on our ability to prevent foreign nations from copying or stealing our best ideas and innovations. In particular, I would be strongly concerned about any attempt to weaken standards for our innovative biopharmaceutical industry, which creates over 2 million U.S. jobs. If access to medicines is a concern, there are many better ways of addressing this complex problem than allowing for the theft of American IP and the resultant off-shoring of US jobs.

Second, I am concerned about longstanding policies in New Zealand that limit or restrict the access to new medicines. These policies not only act as a market access barrier to American exports, but deny New Zealand patients access to the state of the art medicines that we take for granted in the United States. Moreover, the New Zealand system for reimbursing medicines is non-transparent, unaccountable, and not incidentally, exempt from competition laws in New Zealand, which allow it to unfairly keep innovative companies from accessing its market. I urge you to address these issues in the TPP negotiations.

I look forward to working with you on these important issues as the negotiations proceed.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Manzullo  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific