

1088481

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We appreciate your work to advance exports and global opportunities for U.S. industries and workers in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

These negotiations must include high standards for intellectual property rights across all of our domestic industries. It is our belief that the TPP negotiations must ensure consistency with U.S. law, which provides for 12 years of data protection for biologics. The current protections for biologic drugs have been thoroughly debated and the established 12 years of protection received strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

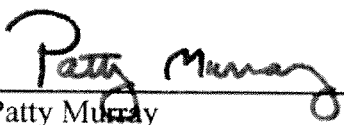
As you and your Administration work to make progress on the TPP, it is vitally important that U.S. negotiators propose robust intellectual property rights for biologics, including 12 years of data protection as found in U.S. law. Protection of intellectual property globally will allow U.S. workers and companies to compete on a level playing field and for our companies to continue to innovate and discover the therapies of the future. Currently, America's biopharmaceutical research companies have 901 biotechnology medicines and vaccines in development, many of which are biologics that target debilitating and life-threatening diseases.

In addition to the tremendous value the life sciences industry contributes to improving health outcomes for patients, its work contributes a great deal to the country and our state's economy. According to recently published reports, employment in the life sciences has continued to grow even as our economy has faced challenges. Washington state had over 33,000 people directly employed in the life sciences last year producing a total employment impact of nearly 91,000 people. Keeping Washington state's life sciences industry strong and able to continue to innovate is an important goal of ours. And the biologics developed in Washington have the potential to treat and cure diseases for patients worldwide.

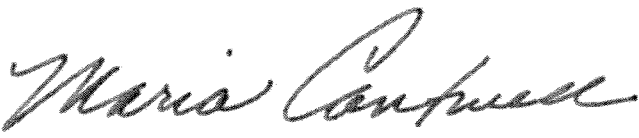
Maintaining biologics data protection at 12 years in the United States and abroad is an important foundation for a vibrant U.S. biopharmaceutical industry and workforce. Securing strong and enforceable intellectual property protections in the TPP will help Washington and the United States maintain and continue to grow a healthy life sciences industry supporting family wage jobs and we urge you and your Administration to support this important work by pushing firmly for 12 years of data protection for biologics in the upcoming negotiating rounds on the TPP.

We thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator