

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 12, 2011

Ambassador Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington D.C., 20508

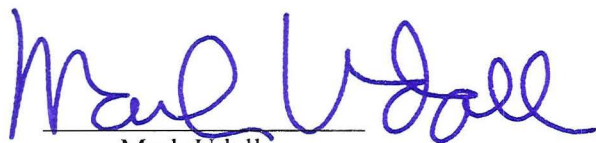
Dear Ambassador Kirk,

We appreciate the important work you are doing to advance high standards of intellectual property rights across our domestic industries. As you continue to make progress on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, we want to stress the importance of proposing a high standard of intellectual property rights for biologics, which is consistent with the 12 years of exclusivity under U.S. law.

In Colorado, our bioscience industry of over 400 companies grew 1.8 percent in the last year compared to a 2.4 percent decline nationwide. For our 20,000 Coloradans in the bioscience industry, protection of their intellectual property globally will allow their companies to continue to compete against the rest of the world. Beginning the biologics negotiations on an intellectual property standard consistent with U.S. law will make sure that Coloradans can continue to lead the world in the innovation of biologics while also assuring a reasonable pathway for biosimilar products.

As we continue to look towards the inclusion of clear and enforceable intellectual property rights in the TPP Agreement, we hope that the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative finalizes its negotiations in a manner that reflects U.S. law on biologics exclusivity standards. A TPP Agreement with strong protections for intellectual property rights across this important industry will allow Colorado to retain its high-quality skilled jobs and compete in a global economy.

Sincerely,



Mark Udall
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator