

October 17, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Jacob Sullivan
Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs
National Security Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Brian Deese
Director
National Economic Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Katherine Tai
United States Trade Representative
600 17th St. NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Ashish Jha
Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and
Counselor to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Blinken, Secretary Raimondo, Ambassador Tai, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Deese and Dr. Jha:

Manufacturers across the country have taken extraordinary steps during the pandemic to save lives, protect our communities and support our economy. The industry has worked tirelessly to create, manufacture and distribute critical products needed to fight COVID-19 and has partnered with other businesses, associations, governments and international organizations to increase supply and delivery of those products to those most in need around the world.

Innovation and intellectual property are at the heart of these efforts and the foundation for U.S. global manufacturing leadership, supporting high-skilled, well-paying jobs for millions of working Americans and their families in all 50 states. That is why our organizations, representing manufacturers from across the U.S., are concerned about ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization that put manufacturing IP at risk.

Specifically, a proposal under consideration in Geneva would expand a waiver of IP to include broad categories of diagnostics and therapeutics and their supply chains. This proposal would weaken critical global rules for IP protections that support innovation in a range of manufacturing sectors by including not only broad new categories of COVID-19 products, but also their upstream supply chains. Furthermore, an expanded waiver allows commercial rivals like China to unfairly seize American innovation to benefit their domestic economies.

IP protections provide the incentive and the certainty for manufacturers to expand research and development, invest in advanced manufacturing facilities and create safer and healthier products for their customers. Therefore, the proposed expansion would also harm manufacturers and workers in America by undermining investment and R&D, and it would set a

problematic precedent for those who want to chip away at American innovation in other areas such as green technology and innovative agriculture.

Our organizations strongly urge the Biden administration and Congress to stand with manufacturers and workers to firmly oppose an expanded IP waiver at the WTO. We stand ready to work with you and your agencies in support of real solutions to the pandemic and future health crises—and to advance U.S. leadership in manufacturing and innovation.

Sincerely,

Alaska Chamber

Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Arizona Manufacturers Council

Associated Industries of Florida

Associated Industries of Massachusetts

Associated Industries of Missouri

Association of Washington Business

Business Council of Alabama

California Manufacturers & Technology Association

Connecticut Business Industry Association

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

Colorado Chamber of Commerce

Delaware Manufacturing Association

Greater North Dakota Chamber

Illinois Manufacturers' Association

Indiana Manufacturers Association

Iowa Association of Business and Industry

Kansas Chamber and the Kansas Manufacturing Council

Maine State Chamber of Commerce

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Michigan Manufacturers Association

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Mississippi Manufacturers Association

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Nevada Manufacturers Association

New Jersey Business & Industry Association

New Mexico Business Coalition

North Carolina Chamber

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association

Oregon Business & Industry

Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry/Tennessee Manufacturers Association

Texas Association of Business

Utah Manufacturers Association

Virginia Manufacturers Association

West Virginia Manufacturers Association

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

National Association of Manufacturers