

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