

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
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