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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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COMMITTEES:
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HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT,
CHAIRMAN

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

Dear Mr. President:

As your Administration continues to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, a broad array of important trade policies are being discussed with partner nations in the Pacific. I fully support your efforts to advance U.S. exports and economic exchanges as part of these negotiations.

As you know, I have previously expressed concerns with the potential entrance of Japan into these negotiations and how such an entry could negatively impact the U.S. auto industry and U.S. auto workers. I write now in regards to ensuring the negotiations protect important intellectual property rights for domestic industries.

Specifically, the negotiations should sustain the high standards on intellectual property rights that are a hallmark of U.S. law. In the emerging field of biological medical products, it is especially important that the negotiations protect the 12 years of exclusivity that U.S. law now provides, as memorialized in the Affordable Care Act just a few years ago. 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.

The life sciences industry contributes significantly to improving health outcomes for patients, and is also a major contributor to the economy. Providing 12 years of exclusivity for biologics in the United States and abroad safeguards an important foundation for a vibrant U.S. biopharmaceutical industry and workforce. Securing strong and enforceable intellectual property protections in the TPP will therefore help the United States maintain and continue to grow a healthy life sciences industry that can continue to support, among many other things, many thousands of family wage jobs.

I applaud the efforts you and your Administration are making to advance our nation's economic interests as part of the negotiations on the TPP. As additional negotiations take place, I hope you will ensure that any final agreement provides for 12 years of exclusivity for biologics.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

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