

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2011

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We applaud your decision to negotiate an innovative and high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership ("TPP") trade agreement. TPP is important both as a model for future U.S. free trade agreements and as a template for a free trade agreement throughout the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region. Given its importance, it is critical that we negotiate the strongest possible TPP agreement that will give all sectors of the U.S. economy the tools they need to succeed now and in the future.

In particular, TPP needs to have high standards of protection for U.S. intellectual property ("IP"). The United States is the most innovative, creative, and IP-dependent economy in the world. Our IP-intensive industries employ more than 19 million Americans, create high paying jobs, and account for approximately 60 percent of U.S. exports. As such, the United States has the most to lose from weak IP standards in foreign markets. Inadequate protection of U.S. intellectual property rights around the world could impair future investment in research and development and discourage the capital investments critical to developing new technologies that can save or enhance lives and create jobs for millions of Americans. In order to protect existing U.S. jobs, and to create new jobs in the United States, it is essential that the United States press the TPP negotiating parties for the highest of IP standards and that those standards apply to all TPP participants without exception.

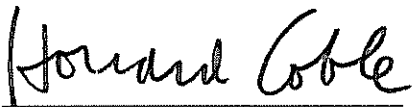
We believe the TPP IP provisions should build upon the high standards for IP protection contained in the most recently concluded U.S. free trade agreement -- the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement ("KORUS") -- and U.S. law. We urge your administration to use KORUS as a baseline for negotiation with our TPP partners, and to table text at the next round of TPP negotiations in September based upon the high IP standards embodied in KORUS. This is essential in order to ensure the future competitiveness of our most innovative and creative industries -- including our biopharmaceutical, creative, software and consumer goods sectors. Now is not the time to allow our trading partners to do even less to protect our most valuable innovative and creative products and services.

Moreover, failing to propose the highest level of IP protection in the TPP negotiations would send a signal to all potential future trading partners that the United States will settle for less than the strongest protection for IP. In our view, that is unacceptable. If TPP is to serve as a model for future trade agreements and a template for a broader Asia-Pacific agreement, it must have the highest standards for IP protection.

We urge your administration to seek the highest IP standards during the TPP negotiations and to reject efforts by our trading partners and others to weaken those standards below those contained in the KORUS agreement. As the negotiations progress, we look forward to continuing to work with you and others in your administration on ways to advance U.S. job creation, economic growth, and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

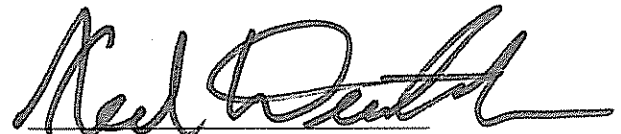

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress

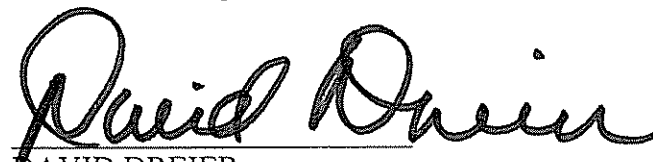

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Member of Congress

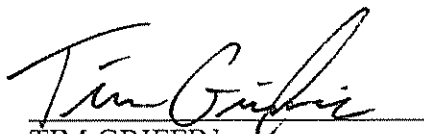

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Member of Congress

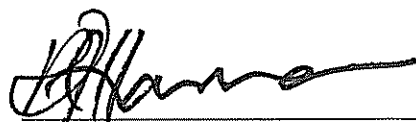

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BLAKE FARENTHOLD
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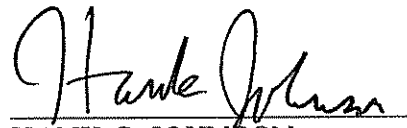

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RICHARD HANNA
Member of Congress

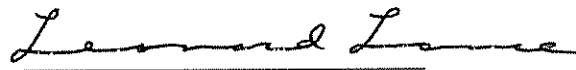

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Member of Congress


LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress

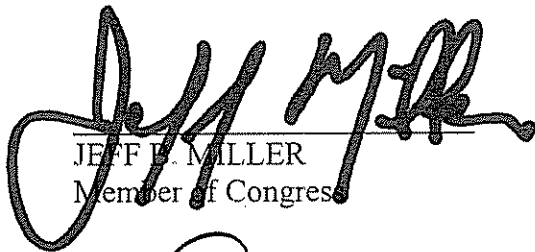

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Member of Congress


EDOLPHUS TOWNS
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JIM COOPER
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative