



Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
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March 11, 2022

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Katherine Tai  
Ambassador  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Secretary Raimondo and Ambassador Tai,

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) welcomes the White House announcement of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and supports efforts to reaffirm U.S. economic engagement with trading partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region and build an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). This effort has the potential to contribute to the robustness of the global economy by promoting sustainable economic development, thereby creating improved opportunities and benefits for workers around the world and addressing climate threats globally. In addition, commitments promoting trade, data flows, sustainability and climate, supply chains, and innovation are critical to growing the competitiveness of American biotech companies.

BIO is a not-for-profit trade association based in the United States with a membership of more than 1,000 biotechnology companies and organizations from the United States as well as 30 other countries. BIO's member companies research and develop innovative health care, agricultural, industrial, and environmental biotechnology products. Over 90% of BIO's members are small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), many of whom are still pre-commercial. Our sector contributes to the robust strength of the U.S. economy, providing inclusive and high-paying jobs for over 1.87 million American workers.

The innovations in our members' pipelines, across the spectrum of the life sciences, have the potential to profoundly improve quality of life around the world. Medicine will be revolutionized by better diagnostics and cures for diseases. Food security will be improved by the acceptance and deployment of climate-resilient technologies in plants, animals, food, and feedstuffs. Our ability to reduce emissions to tackle climate change will be made possible by fostering biobased manufacturing and the use of low-carbon fuels. In addition to the innovative capacity of the bioscience sector to address these pressing issues facing humanity, our sector is also a consistent economic stalwart with a



track record of generating high-quality and inclusive jobs in the U.S. and in research centers abroad.

BIO would like to offer its support to drive mutually beneficial outcomes across all areas of envisioned cooperation within the IPEF, particularly around the digital economy, climate and sustainability, and supply chains.

One goal of the proposed IPEF should be to secure binding commitments to establish through the Indo-Pacific region a robust and reliable ecosystem for data transfers; an ecosystem that allows for timely access to a wide range of data sets and where restrictions, if any, on international data flows should be transparent, limited in scope, risk-based, and the least trade restrictive to achieve a legitimate public policy objective.

Biotech innovation is increasingly data-driven and global in nature: conducting cutting edge R&D projects, executing global clinical trials, harnessing the power of Real World Data, and delivering treatments to patients around the world all rely on a sound and consistent legal environment that allows for the rapid international transfer of data. Restrictions on cross-border data flows may upset such endeavors, raising R&D costs and risk, delaying lifesaving treatments to timely reach patients, compromise global scientific collaborations, and impact key priorities like pandemic preparedness. Uncertainties around the ability to timely transfer data across borders ultimately do a disservice to the globalized and interconnected field of science, an outcome that would be inconsistent with the goals of an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

Another area of the IPEF where BIO would welcome the opportunity to lend support and expertise is around climate and sustainability. Our members are at the cutting edge of developing innovative solutions to address climate change, while also ensuring more inclusive economic benefits for workers and citizens across IPEF trading partner economies.

Finally, it is critical that efforts to advance resilient and secure supply chains include medicines and other life sciences products. BIO members relied on global supply chains in addressing the COVID pandemic. Our members developed in record time vaccines and therapeutics by successfully navigating supply chain challenges as the global biotech community collectively ramped up manufacturing of COVID vaccines to meet global demand. This resulted in over 11 billion doses being manufactured throughout the world and we anticipate an additional 17 billion doses by July 2022. Recognizing the



importance of supply chains, BIO co-sponsored a Global Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Chain and Manufacturing Summit to provide a platform to explore a range of solutions to address bottlenecks and develop recommendations on priority areas to address supply chain considerations.

Strengthening collaboration in these key areas with trading partners in the Indo-Pacific region should be a priority of the U.S. Government that will lead to improved health and economic outcomes for workers and citizens throughout the world. BIO encourages these efforts and remains available to support future workstreams.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle McMurry-Heath". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Michelle McMurry-Heath, MD, PhD  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization

cc:  
Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor  
Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President, Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs,  
National Security Council  
Daleep Singh, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics and Deputy  
Director, National Economic Council  
John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate  
Jose Fernandez, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment