



April 9, 2021

Dear Majority Leader Schumer,

Congratulations on your first 100 days as Leader of the Senate Majority. We stand ready to work with you as you continue to address the very difficult challenges confronting the country.

We are a coalition of biopharmaceutical companies and many building trades unions. These organizations and the working men and women we represent build pharmaceutical research and manufacturing facilities throughout the United States. We share your goals to protect the health of the American people and rebuild our economy during a devastating global pandemic.

The alliance we built and maintain as the Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA) is critical in responding to the challenges we face as a country. Building on decades of research and investment, America's biopharmaceutical companies developed and manufactured effective vaccines and treatments to help fight COVID-19 in record time. This work was performed in facilities built to exacting, precise standards by the women and men of the building trades unions, which invest over \$1.6 billion annually to train the most skilled workforce in the world. America is the global leader in biomedical innovation, in no small part because of the workers who are trained specifically for biopharmaceutical manufacturing projects.

Given the efforts that will be ongoing for some time to combat the pandemic and the urgent need to revitalize an economy severely affected by COVID-19, we encourage you and your colleagues in the Democratic majority to pursue an agenda that will promote U.S. leadership in biopharmaceutical research and development. This is critical to both public health and much needed job creation.

According to a study commissioned by PILMA, there were nearly 250 major biopharmaceutical construction projects privately funded in just 11 states analyzed. These projects represented over \$22 billion in infrastructure investment and generated at least 15.6 million union labor hours. For members of trade unions, this meant more than \$450 million in paychecks and tens of millions of dollars to support health benefits and pension plans.

This is the kind of worker-focused growth that America needs right now. Maintaining and even accelerating it, though, will require a forward-thinking public policy direction. For the biopharmaceutical industry, in particular, there is a direct connection between government policy and the ability to invest in new facility construction within the United States.

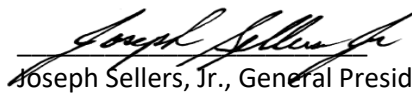
The previous Administration pursued policies that would have relied on choices made by foreign governments to set artificially low prices for treatments and therapies made in this country. The Trump Administration's "Most Favored Nation" rule is still awaiting implementation. This would empower governments in countries that don't generate biopharmaceutical investment, threaten to confiscate patents and don't make new medicines immediately accessible to their populations to have a role in establishing prices in the United States. Tying U.S. prices to those of other countries with different governing philosophies and health care systems than ours may have already stopped U.S. investment, which is bad for jobs and the economy.

Further, we are concerned about legislation in the last Congress that would enable mandated price setting by our own government. Studies have shown that the drug pricing plans initiated in the U.S. House would have led to the permanent loss of nearly one million jobs as a consequence of curtailed biopharmaceutical research and development investment. Overly heavy-handed pricing policies will drive investment dollars out of a biopharmaceutical sector that creates good-paying jobs and possibly out of the country altogether.

We want to work with you on efforts to make medicines more accessible and affordable without creating an adverse impact on innovation, investment and job creation. There is a greater awareness, for example, of how negotiated drug discounts and rebates are not being passed on directly to consumers at the pharmacy counter or via mail order. This needs to change and we hope you will join with us in encouraging the Biden Administration to speed implementation of a rule that would encourage pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to use those savings to lower costs for medicines for patients and consumers including Medicare Part D and plans.

We look forward to continuing this dialogue with you throughout the 117th Congress. PILMA and its biopharmaceutical and labor members are ready to serve you and your colleagues as a source of information and clarity on critical issues affecting Americans' health and jobs. Thank you for your continuing leadership and service to our country in these demanding times.

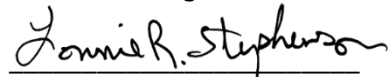
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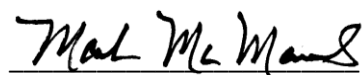
Joseph Sellers, Jr., General President, International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers



Eric Dean, General President, International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers



Lonnie R. Stephenson, General President, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



Mark McManus, General President, United Association of Plumbers, Fitters, Welders & Service Techs



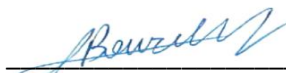
James T. Callahan, General President, International Union of Operating Engineers



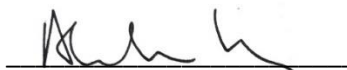
Stephen J. Ubl, President & CEO, PhRMA



David A. Ricks, Chairman & CEO, Eli Lilly and Company



Albert Bourla, DVM, Ph.D, Chairman & CEO, Pfizer, Inc.



Alexander Hardy, CEO, Genentech



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