



April 21, 2009

The Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

On behalf of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, we write today in support of the Pathway for Biosimilars Act 2009, H.R. 1548 sponsored by Representatives Anna Eshoo, Jay Inslee and Joe Barton. In Colorado, this legislation is particularly important to the continued growth of our burgeoning bioscience industry.

We ask your assistance in creating an approval process for licensure of biosimilar biological products through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We support a course that enhances the ability of therapies to reach the market in a timely and safe manner. Because biologics are more complex than chemical drugs, the approval process for generic chemical drugs cannot be applied to biosimilars, which are medicines that are similar to but not exact copies of biologics. Support of this proposal will encourage ongoing research and development of innovative therapies to answer unmet medical needs, while ensuring patient safety and establishing a transparent regulatory process.

Through continued competition among biologics with the introduction of biosimilars, this bill has the potential to reduce costs and increase access while maintaining the highest standards for patient safety. Additionally, it provides the incentives necessary to promote innovation that leads to new therapies and cures for patients.

The biotechnology and life sciences sector is an industry cluster targeted for growth in our state and is an increasingly important part of Colorado's economy. There are currently 18,000 direct jobs and 90,000 indirect jobs in Colorado supported by the bioscience industry, generating approximately \$416.7 million in tax revenue. Between 2002 and the beginning of 2008, \$1.3 billion was invested in Colorado bioscience companies, and Colorado ranks 11th of the 50 states in biotechnology venture capital investment. Enclosed, please find a statewide and metro-wide industry profile.

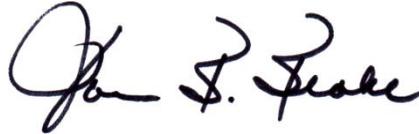
By laying this foundation, our state has been able to attract and establish a number of biotech firms, but the continued growth of the bioscience industry is dependent on a regulatory climate that includes incentives for innovation and growth. Because the bioscience industry has been affected by the downturn in the economy, it is now more critical than ever for Colorado to encourage development in this area.

Senator/Congressman, thank you for your consideration of our perspective as you evaluate the Pathway for Biosimilars Act, H.R. 1548. We appreciate your leadership as we work toward the shared goal of stimulating the economy and addressing opportunities for advancement in health care.

Best regards,



Mimi Roberson
Chair of the Board



Joseph B. Blake
President and CEO

Enclosures: *BIOSCIENCE - Colorado Industry Cluster Profile*
BIOSCIENCE - Metro Denver and N. Colorado Industry Cluster Profile