



May 2, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Senator McConnell, and Senator Schumer:

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), which represents more than 1,000 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers, and related organizations, urges passage of the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations bill. This measure provides essential resources to a variety of government programs that help to unleash the scientific potential of bio-science innovation across economic sectors and grow the American innovation economy. In particular, we are pleased with the Congress' investments in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), biodefense programs, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This legislation builds upon the strong foundation Congress enacted last year in the 21st Century Cures Act, which BIO strongly supported. It provides \$34 billion in funding for the NIH, \$2 billion over FY'16. The financial resources contained in this measure will help build the scientific knowledge base necessary to find treatments and cures for some of our most challenging diseases. The Cancer Moonshot, the Precision Medicine Initiative and funding for Alzheimer's research are all included in this measure. Scientific and medical progress requires predictable funding streams and investments. This omnibus bill supports this essential need for this critical agency and its scientists.

The biotechnology industry is also on the leading edge of these scientific breakthroughs. We lead the private sector every year making massive investments in research and development to find new and innovative therapies, food and agricultural products, and bio-based products and biofuels. While our industry invests more than \$70 billion in private capital in the United States annually, we also recognize the role the government plays through its funding as a part of this overall discovery ecosystem in America.

This Omnibus also provides \$2.8 billion in federal funding for the FDA, an agency that will help implement many of the other critical reforms included in the 21st Century Cures bill necessary to improve the drug development process. It is essential that the fundamental strides in science that



have occurred in the last decade be matched by reforms of the drug approval process. This legislation provides critical resources, almost \$40 million more than FY'16, to continue this transformational process. FDA also provides key regulatory functions for biotechnology derived food and feed products, and plays a critical role in fostering "one health" coordination across federal agencies. BIO supports robust connection in federal resources associated with identifying links and collaborations related to human, animal, and environmental health.

In that vein, BIO supports the additional resources contained in the bill for the CDC for vaccines and biodefense. The bill includes \$22 million more for this important agency over FY'16 levels. This funding will complement efforts in the private sector to find new treatments and vaccines for many diseases ranging from Zika to the seasonal influenza. And, BIO is pleased the Congress provides critical funding for animal health programs and research at USDA and FDA.

BIO supports continued funding for a variety of biodefense programs included in this legislation. The measure provides funding for programs such as the CDC's Public Health Preparedness and Response programs, the Strategic National Stockpile, and programs to enhance State and Local Preparedness capacity in the biodefense area.

With regard to USDA, BIO applauds the Congress' support for implementing the national bioengineered food disclosure law, which was enacted in 2016 with broad, bipartisan support, and for dedicating \$3 million for a joint USDA-FDA public education effort dedicated to informing the public about modern agricultural tools, like biotechnology. We also appreciate support for key trade offices throughout the federal government. Trade of biotechnology products is a top priority in agriculture and other economic sectors, so Congress' investment in trade offices is very important to fostering American bio-science innovation.

Finally, BIO remains concerned about a continuing provision in the legislation that baselessly targets a bioengineered salmon product approved for the commercial marketplace by the FDA in 2015. We look forward to working with the Congress to remove this provision from future spending bills.

We applaud the Congress for this bipartisan accomplishment and urge its speedy passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Greenwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" being more prominent.

Jim Greenwood  
President and CEO