



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 9, 2009

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Joe L. Barton
U.S. Representative, District 6
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4306

Dear Representative Barton:

I am writing to encourage your assistance in creating a follow-on biologics approval pathway through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that enhances the ability of therapies to reach the market in a timely and safe manner while also preserving innovation.

I am committed to creating new jobs and economic wealth for Texas, and the biotechnology and life sciences sector is a targeted industry cluster for our state. With the 2005 creation of the \$200 million Texas Emerging Technology Fund, and more recently, the establishment of the \$3 billion Texas Cancer Prevention and Research Institute, Texas is focused on improving the commercialization of research at our universities, helping start-up technology firms get off the ground sooner, significantly reducing the time it takes to move new life-changing innovations out of the lab and into the hands of consumers, and on finding cures to the devastating variations of cancer that affect millions of people. Many of these cures will come in the form of life-saving biologic medicines.

As you consider efforts to provide an approval pathway for the development of follow-on biologics, I urge you to ensure that there are provisions to protect patient safety, preserve incentives for innovation, and establish a transparent statutory and regulatory process for stakeholders, all of which are necessary for preserving medical innovation and the discovery of new therapies for patients.

Texas has made a significant investment in the life sciences industry and has a particular interest in ensuring that any legislation, whether state-driven or national, takes into account the need to get life-saving therapies into the hands of those that need them, and the ability for companies to attract investment revenue and continue to commercialize new and innovative medical breakthroughs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jop

cc: Mr. Ed Perez, Executive Director, Office of State-Federal Relations