



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Representative DeGette:

On behalf of the City and County of Denver, I write today in support of the Pathway for Biosimilars Act 2009, H.R. 1548 sponsored by Representatives Anna Eshoo, Jay Inslee and Joe Barton. The Pathway for Biosimilars Act (H.R. 1548) recently introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress strikes the appropriate balance of proving the safety and efficacy of biosimilars, while preserving incentives for continued innovation. This legislation is particularly important to the continued growth of our burgeoning bioscience industry here in the metro Denver area.

Colorado's life science industry is coming of age as the number of life science companies successful in getting products to the market dramatically increases, and as the number of newly created companies similarly increases. Colorado is now home to over 920 bioscience establishments that directly employ 18,000 Coloradoans. The average annual wage in this sector is \$70,000. Colorado's research institutions also have demonstrated a strong commitment to bioscience research excellence in crucial areas, and are spinning out new companies with their intellectual property at an exorbitant rate. Colorado is becoming a leader in the industry on both a national and international level, and much of this success is due to the support of the state and federal government.

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.

I appreciate your leadership as we work toward the shared goal of stimulating the economy and addressing opportunities for advancement in health care.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper  
Mayor