

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2007

The Honorable Susan C. Schwab
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Schwab:

We are writing to express concern about plans of the Royal Thai Government to significantly expand its program of compulsory licensing of innovative U.S. pharmaceutical products.

In November 2006, the Thai Ministry of Public Health began to seek compulsory licenses for pharmaceutical products developed by U.S. companies. Recent actions by the Thai Ministry of Public Health demonstrate its intent to expand this compulsory licensing program to include nearly a dozen medications to treat high cholesterol and other conditions apparently unrelated to any urgent public health issue.

We strongly support the WTO rules that recognize the rights of countries to consider actions, including compulsory licensing, to address urgent public health needs, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other pandemics. But we do not believe that WTO members intended those rules to be used to allow compulsory licenses on any medicine whatsoever as a matter of standard government policy, especially without any meaningful prior consultation with the patent holders.

We believe that strong protection for intellectual property rights is critical, both for America's innovative economy and for the advancement of global public health. We are concerned that Thailand's proposed actions may constitute a new governmental policy to expropriate patents on all manner of innovative medicines not used to address significant public health needs. Without an appropriate response by the U.S. government, we are concerned that respect for intellectual property rights worldwide will diminish.

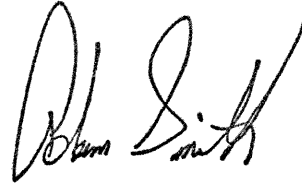
While we respect the Thai Government's right to take measures to protect public health, we also believe firmly that strong protection of intellectual property rights is necessary in order to continue fueling the innovation that leads to the development of life-saving medicines. As you know, that critical innovation is led by a U.S. research-based industry that supports more than two million workers.

We ask you to encourage the Royal Thai Government to consult with our innovative companies to achieve a positive outcome, which ensures a continued focus on improving the health of Thai patients and preserves strong intellectual property protection. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



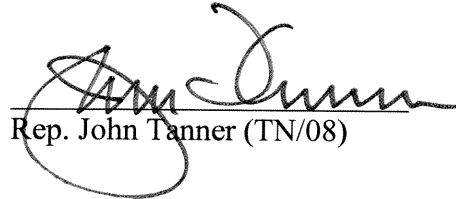
Rep. Ron Kind (WI/03)



Rep. Adam Smith (WA/09)



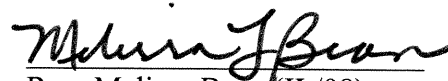
Rep. Ellen Tauscher (CA/10)



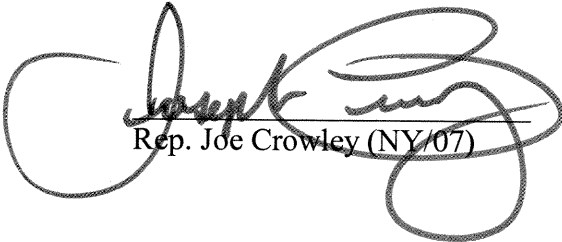
Rep. John Tanner (TN/08)



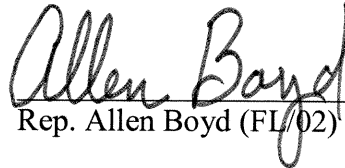
Rep. Artur Davis (AL/07)



Rep. Melissa Bean (IL/08)



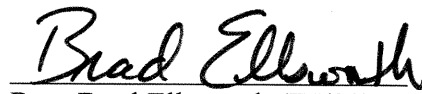
Rep. Joe Crowley (NY/07)



Rep. Allen Boyd (FL/02)



Rep. Jim Matheson (UT/02)



Rep. Brad Ellsworth (IN/08)



Rep. Joe Courtney (CT/02)



Rep. Ron Klein (FL/22)