



Your Generics & Biosimilars Industry

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

The Association for Accessible Medicines (AAM), the nation's leading trade association representing manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines, strongly encourages the Senate to approve the nomination of Katherine Tai as the next U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

Ms. Tai's pragmatic, collaborative approach to complex trade issues was instrumental in reaching a consensus on the final text of the United States Mexico Trade Agreement (USMCA), which was approved with historic bipartisan support. This agreement is the first U.S. trade agreement that strikes an appropriate balance between providing strong intellectual property protections for new chemical and biologic medicines and promoting patient access to more affordable generic and biosimilar medicines.

Ms. Tai's depth of knowledge and institutional memory would benefit the United States at a time when commercial relations with our global trading partners are more complex than ever. Her previous experience working under both Republican and Democratic leadership at USTR provides her with a holistic view of trade policy as it affects various stakeholders in the United States. Her work as trade counsel on the House Ways and Means Committee elevated this approach and cemented her reputation as a leader willing to work across party lines.

For developers of generic and biosimilar medicines, this is especially important as the United States looks to increase its role in the global pharmaceutical supply chain and ensure our trade policies facilitate greater access to affordable medicines. The United States already plays an important role in this supply chain, with generic companies

providing more than 52,000 jobs at nearly 150 facilities, and manufacturing more than 60 billion doses of prescription medicines annually.

As Congress and the Biden administration work to promote greater domestic manufacturing of medicines critical to the health care system, it is more important than ever that the U.S. Trade Representative leverage the entire pharmaceutical sector to encourage both patient access to affordable medicines and contributions to local economies. AAM and our member companies strongly encourage a bipartisan demonstration by approving Ms. Tai's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dan Leonard
President & CEO