



RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ROLE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTIONS IN SUPPORTING INNOVATION AND JOBS WITHIN THE LIFE SCIENCE SECTOR

WHEREAS, innovation within the biopharmaceutical sector leads to new discoveries that save lives and help this important U.S. industry remain competitive globally; and

WHEREAS, this competitive edge has positioned the U.S. pharmaceutical sector as one of the few manufacturing industries that still maintains a significant employment footprint domestically, supporting more than 3.2 million American jobs; and,

WHEREAS, the 2010 Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA) Jobs & Innovation report states that, “Intellectual property (IP) rights protections are essential for maintaining and improving America’s position within the global, knowledge-based economy”; and,

WHEREAS, intellectual property theft, counterfeiting and piracy represent one of the greatest threats to maintaining and improving America’s position within the global, knowledge-based economy; and,

WHEREAS, intellectual property theft, counterfeiting and piracy enable foreign competitors to devalue not just the products that they steal, but also every other component that goes into the creation of those products – including labor; and,

WHEREAS, foreign companies that steal intellectual property often rely upon cheap, exploitable, workers with no labor rights in order to manufacture their products; and,

WHEREAS, the 2010 PILMA Jobs & Innovation report states that “IP protections and their enforcement ensure inventors and innovative companies that their investments in time, money, and human capital will be protected if they are successful, and that they will have the opportunity to earn a potential return on their investment”; and,

WHEREAS, AFL-CIO trade expert Thea Lee stated on March 9, 2011, in testimony to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade that the U.S. “must also increase efforts to fight the intellectual property right violations of competitors that seek to profit from the creativity of our people”; and,

WHEREAS, in a June 2010 statement, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka underscored the importance of this issue to organized labor and its members: “When digital thieves steal entertainment, or counterfeiters make cheap copies of quality products, they rob American workers of jobs and income. As the AFL-CIO Executive Council highlighted in March, intellectual property fuels some of the most vibrant sectors of the U.S. economy”; therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the union and industry Trustees of PILMA recognize the serious threat that intellectual property theft, piracy and counterfeiting pose to the pharmaceutical sector, as well as all innovation-based industries and their workers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PILMA will redouble its efforts at the federal level to support increased protections to fight intellectual property theft, counterfeiting and piracy, along with real enforcement measures to implement those protections; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PILMA will join ongoing collaborative efforts – both within the business community and the trade union movement – to protect our knowledge-based economy, innovation industries and affected U.S. workers by fighting intellectual property theft, counterfeiting and piracy at every level.