

## Resolution concerning the importance of robust patent and intellectual property protections for promoting innovation and U.S. job creation

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 3.4 million American jobs and is responsible for the largest share of business R&D in the U.S. economy; 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 and weak patent regimes represent one of the greatest threats to maintaining and improving America's position within the global, knowledge-based economy; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the trade union and company trustees of the Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA) recognize the profound importance of strong intellectual property laws and regulations in order to protect industry, workers, US jobs, and the knowledge based economy; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the trade union and company trustees of PILMA urge legislators that any reforms to the Patent & Trademark Office (PTO) should maintain a strong and secure patent system that recognizes the rights of legitimate patent owners and addresses recent abuses that have emerged at the PTO; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the trade union and company trustees of PILMA urge legislators to exercise caution when introducing new legislation to combat patent abuses that could unintentionally weaken the knowledge-based economy; 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 and weak patent regimes.