



BIOTECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY
ORGANIZATION

March 12, 2002

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lieberman:

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) enthusiastically commends you for introducing the *Robert Stevens, Thomas Morris Jr., Joseph Curseen, Kathy Nguyen, Otilie Lundgren, and Lisa J. Raines Biological and Chemical Weapons Research Act (S. 1764)*. BIO represents more than 1,000 biotechnology companies engaged in research and product development for health care, agriculture, pollution control and industrial applications. We strongly support your legislation and thank you sincerely for introducing it.

This legislative effort addresses all the important concepts (including those not currently part of the House- and Senate-passed bioterrorism bills) that will clear the way for research and product development to combat a biological or chemical attack. These include tax, intellectual property and liability protection measures. Recent history has shown that without these measures, vaccine development in particular will not proceed at a pace consistent with our national security needs. Now is the time to enable and encourage companies to expand upon research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and other products to combat a biological or chemical attack.

Your bill encompasses all the important factors necessary for future development of "biodefense" products. We want to help you enact this bill, or at the least achieve its intent, through examining ways to strengthen and improve the research and development for "biodefense" products.

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We look forward to working with you and your staff as your legislation proceeds. If you have any questions you or your staff may reach BIO at our new phone number, 202-962-9200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl B. Feldbaum". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Carl B. Feldbaum
President

CBF: sc