

October 24, 2008

James C. Greenwood  
President & CEO

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader and Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), I am to urge inclusion of \$1.9 billion in emergency funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and \$1.45 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) should Congress consider an Economic Stimulus package this year.

The NIH is the nation's premier research agency for the study of human health conditions, diagnostics, and treatments. However, for the past five years the NIH budget has been flat or declining in real-dollar terms. This is happening at a time of unprecedented capacity for research, as well as an unprecedented demand for new healthcare solutions. The research infrastructure is in place, but the NIH is simply unable to meet the growing demand for project grants, and many important well-designed research projects are going unfunded. BIO strongly supports an additional \$1.9 billion in funding for NIH that will put us on the track of sustainable growth that is necessary to realize our potential to improve technology, lower rising health care costs, and improve the health of all Americans.

The additional funding for the PHSSEF will address a critical shortfall in funding to the hazards of bioterrorism and pandemic influenza. Specifically, I urge to consider \$870 million for the development and acquisition of medical countermeasures against a potential influenza pandemic, \$542 million to address a shortfall in emergency funding for the advanced development of medical countermeasures against potential chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear terrorist attacks, and \$50 million to assist with the delivery of countermeasures and ancillary products. This funding is needed to replenish previous appropriations that will be exhausted this year under contracts that are currently being negotiated by Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Regards,



James C. Greenwood  
President and CEO  
Biotechnology Industry Organization



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