



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

NOV 15 2001

Mr. Carl B. Feldbaum
President
Biotechnology Industry Organization
1625 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006-1604

Dear Mr. Feldbaum:

Thank you for your cosigned letter recommending action to ensure that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has the necessary tools to handle the workload associated with the 21st century economy.

The Department of Commerce and the Administration strongly share your belief that the administration of patent and trademark laws and the encouragement of intellectual property development are vital factors in promoting economic growth in our country. Ensuring sufficient funding and effective management and budgetary discipline at USPTO are certainly critical to that effort.

To that end, we are working closely with USPTO, as well as with the Office of Management and Budget, to develop a sound, results-based five-year strategic plan for USPTO that focuses on enhancing the quality of patents and trademarks while minimizing processing time. I assure you that the elements you suggest will be thoroughly addressed in the plan.

We look forward to sharing our work product with you in the near future. Thank you for your continuing interest and support in promoting a strong and effective patent and trademark system.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel W. Bodman

cc: The Honorable Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
The Honorable Lawrence B. Lindsey