RESOLUTION CONCERNING illegal importation of biopharmaceuticals

WHEREAS, innovation within the U.S. innovative biopharmaceutical sector leads to new discoveries that save lives and contribute to U.S. economic growth and result in the U.S. being the global leader in biopharma research and development; 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 4.4 million American jobs and is responsible for a larger share of business R&D than any other industry in the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, there are serious, well-documented concerns related to the quality, safety and efficacy of unregulated, illegally imported biopharmaceuticals into the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the importation of illegal biopharmaceuticals would undermine the long established closed prescription drug distribution system that has developed over the last half-century to maintain a safe and effective drug supply for U.S. patients, a system overseen by the FDA whose authority Congress has seen fit to enhance from time to time in the face of constant attempts by unscrupulous actors to penetrate the U.S. drug supply with counterfeit or adulterated drugs for their own profit at the expense of patient safety; and

WHEREAS, the Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA) has a long history of clearly defined policy on importation of illegal biopharmaceuticals, stating in 2010's Jobs & Innovation Report that "not only do counterfeit medicines defraud consumers, they deny patients the therapies that can alleviate suffering and save lives—and in too many cases, counterfeit drugs cause great harm and fatalities"; and

WHEREAS, neither the HHS nor the FDA has ever stated that it can verify the quality or safety of imported medicines from Canada since there is no way to determine if the drugs originated in Canada or another country – and could have been shipped from and through any number of countries including countries with little to no regulation of biopharmaceuticals; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office in 2005 determined importation would only reduce drug spending by "roughly 1 percent" and, further, much of the potential savings would not be passed on to consumers, but absorbed by middlemen; and

WHEREAS, a de facto price control mechanism in the form of price controlled imports would upend the United States' long established and proven policies that provide incentives for biopharmaceutical companies to research and develop new groundbreaking treatments and cures domestically; and

WHEREAS, price controlled imports would decimate biopharmaceutical investment in building and retrofitting research and manufacturing facilities in the U.S., resulting in the loss of jobs for members of

North America's Building and Construction Trades Unions and millions of others employed in the industry; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the trade union and company trustees of the Pharmaceutical Industry Labor-Management Association (PILMA) recognize the deleterious effect of price controlled imports on new biopharmaceutical treatments and cures, research and development, patient health and safety and American jobs the industry supports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the trade union and company trustees of PILMA urge legislators to oppose any attempt to bring illegal biopharmaceutical products into the US through importation.