

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.