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January 23, 2017

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President & CEO

Dear Connecticut Legislator:

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Re: The Importance of Sustained Support for Bioscience in Connecticut

We are writing on behalf of CURE (Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Inc.) to thank you for the State's investment of nearly \$1 billion over the past decade in the development of the bioscience industry in Connecticut.ⁱ The bioscience industry represents a significant share of the State economy and has potential for substantial growth in the coming decade. We hope that the General Assembly will sustain that commitment to growing the bioscience industry through support for research and tax incentives, particularly in view of the current economic climate and the budgetary challenges facing the state.

1. Nearly 25,000 People are Employed by the Bioscience Industry

According to a report jointly released by Battelle and BIO, the bioscience industry employs nearly 25,000 people in Connecticut. This industry sector provides high paying jobs, while delivering innovative and high quality therapeutic options to patients.

2. Connecticut Has Already Invested Heavily in the Bioscience Industry

The state has made significant investments in the bioscience industry. These investments include the \$200 million Connecticut Bioscience Innovation Fund (CBIF), the opening of the Jackson Laboratories on the UConn Healthcare campus in Farmington in 2015, STEMConn (the Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicines Symposium), the expansion of the UConn TIP (Technology Incubator Program) in Farmington, The Commons science and technology incubator in Southeastern CT and the continued support for Connecticut Innovations. CBIF seeks to drive innovation in the biosciences throughout Connecticut by providing focused financial assistance to startups, early stage businesses, non-profits and accredited colleges and universities. Furthermore, the PITCH program, an initiative under CBIF, is helping to prime research discoveries at our universities. Importantly, the State is home to numerous biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, universities and research institutes.

3. The State Must Protect and Grow Its Investment

The investment already made by the state in the bioscience industry has been significant. Therefore, it is essential that this investment be appropriately nurtured and further supported, so that the result and dividends are fully realized. There is a pool of highly trained personnel right here in the state.

This talent must be retained. An important way that the state can grow the bioscience industry is by providing continued financial and legislative support. Providing a strong ecosystem with a diversity of opportunities will retain and further grow this well-trained, professional resource.

4. The State Must Remain Competitive in Bioscience

The bioscience industry is an important pillar of the economy. For example, the state had created important tax credits to foster a competitive environment that has helped Connecticut keep a seat at the bioscience table. Research and development funding is critical for the State's economy. These credits, which leverage the investments made in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, are a necessity, particularly considering that 40 states now provide such tax credits. For Connecticut to remain competitive the state must continue to support its bioscience industry through restoring and expanding these credits. If the state fails to continue this support, it will lose jobs, highly trained personnel, facilities, and research and manufacturing facilities to other states. Our Angel Tax Credit is another existent strength, driving the vital start-up dimension of the complex bioscience ecosystem.

5. Bioscience is the Future

For the state to have a healthy and diverse economy it is essential that the bioscience industry be a robust and significant component. The bioscience industry is growing and Connecticut must ensure that it obtains and continues to attract a part of that industry and share in that future growth. Companies often make decisions as to where to locate, expand, and invest based on the business climate of the state and available incentives and the like. Connecticut need to send the right message to its biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies currently conducting business in Connecticut, and also to those companies that Connecticut wishes to attract in the future.

We hope this letter serves to keep open the dialogue with the State Legislature and the Governor's Office about the importance of bioscience in Connecticut.

Sincerely yours,



Susan Froshauer, PhD
CEO & President



Anthony D. Sabatelli, PhD, JD
Chair, Government Affairs Committee

ⁱ CURE serves the broad bioscience network of Connecticut and is the State's affiliate of BIO, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (bio.org). CURE is a diverse community of small and large life and healthcare sciences companies, Universities, government agencies, scientists, educators, mentors, students, entrepreneurs, business experts, service providers, and investors