

September 9, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We write as a coalition of organizations united in support of American leadership in biotechnology and biomanufacturing, urging the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to hold markups of several bipartisan biotechnology bills during the remaining time of the 119th Congress. Each of these bills advances recommendations from the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) and falls within your committee's jurisdiction.

As you know, the NSCEB was established to help Congress and the executive branch understand the national and economic security stakes of the rapidly evolving biotechnology innovation ecosystem, and to recommend a whole-of-government strategy to ensure the United States leads the bioeconomy of the future. Over the course of its work, the Commission built a substantial bipartisan, bicameral record and a slate of actionable recommendations spanning biomanufacturing capacity, data infrastructure, workforce development, and education. This includes 40 of the 49 recommendations that have seen bipartisan legislative action in either chamber, including 19 recommendations included in the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act alone.

The Commission is statutorily set to sunset at the end of this year, making this moment critical. While the window to translate the NSCEB's recommendations into durable law will not be closed after the NSCEB sunsets, we need to ensure that the momentum behind implementing the Commission's recommendations continues as we transition into the next Congress. Moving these bills through markup now would send a clear signal that Congress intends to build on the Commission's work rather than let it lapse with the Commission itself.

We respectfully urge the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to schedule markups this fall on the following bills, each of which addresses a distinct, actionable recommendation from the NSCEB's report:

- **S. 3188, Biomanufacturing Excellence Act** — Directs NIST to establish a National Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Center of Excellence to strengthen domestic biopharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers.
- **S. 4069, AI-Ready Bio-Data Standards Act** — Directs NIST to develop standards and frameworks that make federally funded biological data usable for training AI models, ensuring the data underpinning the next generation of biotechnology breakthroughs is high-quality and interoperable.

- **S. 3741, Biosecurity Modernization and Innovation Act** — Requires the Department of Commerce to strengthen nucleic acid synthesis security screening and directs a governance review to consolidate fragmented federal biosecurity oversight, closing gaps that bad actors could otherwise exploit.
- **S. 5130, Human Dignity and Emerging Technologies Act** — Establishes a nonpartisan U.S. Commission on Human Dignity to advise Congress on the ethical and policy implications of emerging technologies, including AI and biotechnology, ensuring innovation policy is paired with careful ethical deliberation.

These bills all address the core pillars of the NSCEB's action plan: scaling domestic biomanufacturing capacity and supply chain resilience, modernizing the data and computing infrastructure that underpins biotechnology innovation, safeguarding biosecurity, and building the skilled workforce and public understanding needed to sustain American leadership in the bioeconomy for decades to come. They enjoy broad, cross-sector support because they represent practical, bipartisan steps that strengthen U.S. competitiveness against China and other strategic competitors in a field that will shape both our economy and our national security.

We appreciate your committee's continued attention to these issues and stand ready to provide any additional information that would be helpful as you consider scheduling these markups. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

With Honor Action

Heartland BioWorks Regional Tech Hub

American Type Culture Collection (ATCC)

Indiana Life Sciences Association

Applied Research Institute (ARI)

KC BioHub

AZBio

Ohio Life Sciences Association

BEAM Circular

Perimeter

BioBuilder Educational Foundation

Leash Bio

BioNJ

Ian Banks

*Director of Science and Innovation Policy
(Foundation for American Innovation)*

**Engineering Biology Research Consortium
(EBRC)**

Josh Wentzel

*Senior Fellow (Foundation for American
Innovation)*

Georgia Life Sciences