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May 30, 2003

Monsieur André Bachand, député

Membre du Comité de l'Industrie, des Sciences et de la Technologie

< < sent by email only bachand.a@parl.gc.ca > >

Dear Monsieur Bachand,

I am writing to express the concern of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) about the Industry Committee's review of Canada's Patent Act, specifically the Linkage Regulations. Canadian patients benefit every day from the research and products produced by Canada's research-based pharmaceutical industry. When we learned that the most important piece of legislation to the research-based industry was being reviewed once again, I felt that we must write to you. We believe in the importance of this industry, and its products to Canada and Canadian patients. Weakening Canada's Patent Act will put the valuable work of Canada's innovative pharmaceutical industry in jeopardy.

I wish to draw your attention to the magnitude of support that has come forward from Canadian research-based pharmaceutical industry members. A formal publication of this investment and its success is in press with the *Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology*. The following link will provide an overview <http://www.cag-acg.org/whatsnew/Pdf/Total%20Investment.pdf>. This support is entirely at arms length, and peer reviewed and matched by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). A long-standing and positive relationship with the research-based pharmaceutical industry has led to an investment, which exceeds \$8.5 million providing for essential basic and clinical research as well as for the training and knowledge advancement of Canadian physicians and scientists. If it were not for such investments, there would most certainly be further health care resource shortages and clearly less advancement of the discipline of gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition in Canada.

The Patent Act and the Linkage Regulations, which are a very important part of the Act, are vital to this innovative industry. A steady flow of investments means that Canada will be a strong performer in scientific research and development.

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Continued support of strong patent protection and maintaining the Linkage Regulations will help to make Canada become competitive on the world stage, ensure that Canadians continue to benefit from the fruits of fostering a knowledge-based economy, and provide benefit from the best medicines available to improve their quality of life of all Canadians.

Sincerely yours,



Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC
Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology
Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto
Canada Research Chair (tier 1) in Gastrointestinal Disease
President, Canadian Association of Gastroenterology

Letter also sent to:

Mr. Larry Bagnell, M.P., Member- Industry, Science and Technology Committee
Monsieur Paul Crête, député, Membre du Comité de l'Industrie, des Sciences et de la Technologie
Mr. Brian Fitzpatrick, M.P., Member- Industry, Science and Technology Committee
Madame Jocelyne Girard-Bujold, députée, Membre du Comité de l'Industrie, des Sciences et de la Technologie
Mr. Walt Lastewka, M.P., Chair, Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology
Monsieur Serge Marcil, député, Secrétaire parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie des Sciences et de la Technologie
Mr. Brian Masse, M.P., Member, Industry, Science and Technology Committee
Mr. Dan McTeague, M.P., Chair-Industry, Science and Technology Committee
Monsieur Gilbert Normand, député, Membre du Comité de l'Industrie, des Sciences et de la Technologie
Mr. James Rajotte, M.P., Opposition Senior Critic – Industry
Mr. Andy Savoy, M.P., Member, Industry, Science and Technology Committee
Mr. Brent St. Denis, M.P., Member, Industry, Science and Technology Committee
Mr. Andrei Sulzenko, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry
Ms. Paddy Torsney, M.P., Chair, Special Committee on Non-Medical Use of Drugs and Member, Industry, Science and Technology Committee
Mr. Joseph Volpe, M.P., Member, Industry, Science and Technology Committee
Mr. Stockwell Day, Vice-Chair Foreign Affairs Committee
Mr. John Duncan, Canadian Alliance Critic International Trade
Mr. Steven Harper, Leader of the Official Opposition
Mr. Jason Kenney, Canadian Alliance Critic, Finance
Mr. Rob Merrifield, Vice-Chair Health Committee, Canadian Alliance Health, Romanow Commission Critic
Mr. Chuck Strahl, CA Critic, Deputy Prime Minister, Industry