



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

February 26, 2024

Chairman Jim Jordan
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2024. I appreciate the Committee sharing its views regarding the *World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights* (TRIPS Agreement) and the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a part of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement adopted at the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference, WTO Members agreed to consider whether to extend the Ministerial Decision to COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics. To inform the conversation on this question, on December 16, 2022, I asked the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to investigate issues related to COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics. The resulting report delivered on October 17, 2023 has helped to drive a more fact-based discussion on this issue. In addition, USTR has consulted with Congress, civil society, and industry to hear perspectives on whether or not extend the Ministerial Decision. I welcome having received your views ahead of the upcoming Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference.

I look forward to providing an additional response in the near future.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Katherine Tai
U.S. Trade Representative