



May 29, 2012

The Honorable Brian Bilbray
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2410
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Bilbray,

I write today to express CONNECT's full support for passage of FDA user fee legislation the House will vote on this week. Additionally, CONNECT strongly supports the House including in the PDUFA/MDUFA reauthorization your two bills, H.R. 3203 the Novel Device Regulatory Relief Act and H.R. 5334 the Breakthroughs Therapy Act, as key innovation policy provisions that will improve the FDA's review and approval processes. We appreciate your leadership in advancing these important issues.

As you know, CONNECT was birthed out of UC—San Diego over twenty-five years ago with the mission to propel creative ideas and emerging technologies to the marketplace by training entrepreneurs and connecting them to the comprehensive resources they need to sustain viability and business vibrancy. Since 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of over 3,000 companies and is recognized as one of the world's most successful regional innovation development programs. In 2010, CONNECT won the Innovation in Economic Development Award in the Regional Innovation Clusters category presented by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

As a leading voice representing technology startup and emerging companies, FDA user fee reauthorization is a critical component in fostering young companies to grow, create jobs, and continue to revolutionize life-saving medical care. We are encouraged by the measured but quick pace the House has taken to advance the FDA user fee reauthorizations. It is heartening to see Congress act in a bipartisan manner to ensure that our lifescience innovators are not being distracted by the fear that the reauthorizations will not get to the President in a timely manner. Lifescience innovators in San Diego and throughout the U.S. need to be focused on developing breakthroughs that save lives and improve health, not on political theater. The House's actions display the recognition that this truly is "must pass" legislation.

We stand ready to assist you and other Congressional leaders in getting the bill passed and again express our gratitude for your hard work and dedication to innovation issues.

Sincerely,

Timothy Tardibono

Timothy Tardibono, M.A., J.D.
Vice President of Public Policy, CONNECT