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Massachusetts Biotechnology Council  
700 Technology Square, 5th Floor  
Cambridge, MA 02139

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Charlie Baker  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

I am writing to request that the state consider certain biotechnology industry personnel who reside and/or work in your state to be considered as essential workers slated to receive a COVID-19 vaccine during the early phases of immunization. Specifically, these workers involved in research, develop and manufacturing of biopharmaceuticals and agricultural biotechnology products should be included in Phase 1B of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) framework. This will mitigate any disruption to our nation's medicine and food supply during the pandemic.

We agree without question that front-line health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities take priority and should receive the very first doses of the vaccine. We also think our nation and state must ensure essential and lifesaving services continue to move forward as we attempt to beat back this pandemic, which is why we are urging that biotechnology industry workers be included as part of the Phase 1B essential workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Please see the attached is a letter from the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) that was recently sent to the National Governors Association (NGA), which lays out our position in more detail. I also want you to know that our industry fully recognizes the challenge you and your administration face as you prioritize when our citizens receive the vaccine. We stand ready to help however we can and appreciate your leadership through this challenging time in our state's history.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Coughlin  
President & CEO, MassBio