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Hon. Jane Harman
Director, President and CEO

March 13, 2015

Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413 St. Jacques Street West, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec
H2Y 1N9, Canada

Dear Mr. Ferreira de Souza Dias,

The Wilson Center's Science and Technology Innovation Program and its Synthetic Biology Project have been recognized as one of the leading authorities on synthetic biology issues. Our data, reports and expertise were requested by the Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity and incorporated into decision XI/11. In addition we have participated in the Eighteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP) to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

Established in 2008, the Wilson Center's Synthetic Biology Project provides independent, rigorous analysis that can inform critical decisions affecting the research, commercialization and use of synthetic biology. Its objective is to help ensure that, as synthetic biology moves forward, possible risks are minimized and benefits maximized. In collaboration with researchers, governments, industries, non-governmental organizations, policymakers and others, the Project works to identify gaps in our knowledge of the potential risks of synthetic biology, explore public perceptions towards the field, and examines governance options that will both ensure public safety and facilitate innovation.

I would like to nominate **Dr. Todd Kuiken**, Senior Research Associate with the Science and Technology Innovation Program and Principal Investigator of the Synthetic Biology Project, to the Open-Ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology. Dr. Kuiken's contact details are below:

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My thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane Harman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Jane Harman