

Watson, Leroy

National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, NGO

The National Grange, the oldest general farm and rural public interest NGO in the United States believes that the progression of the United States from a developing, predominantly rural nation to a developed nation with a significant rural population over the past 140 years offers a compelling case study in the value and efficacy of appropriate intellectual property protections in fostering successful delivery of medicines and other health care services to remote and rural communities. The National Grange believes that this model should be incorporated into the final recommendations for the plan of action by the World Health Organization Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property to address medical conditions affecting developing countries. We believe that the direction of the current draft, which would move sharply away from the current, successful model of private sector driven pharmacological innovation coupled with public/private partnerships for distribution of these pharmacologically innovative products in individual nations will be highly detrimental to the public health interests of billions of the world's rural citizens in both developed and developing nations.