



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **REPRESENTATIVE JAY INSLEE JOINS GOVERNOR CHRISTINE GREGOIRE AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR THE WBBA'S GOVERNOR'S LIFE SCIENCE SUMMIT AND ANNUAL MEETING**

*Elected officials play key role in establishing policies and creating supportive  
business climate to grow life sciences in Washington state*

**SEATTLE, WA – June 9, 2010** – The Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (WBBA) announced today that Representative Jay Inslee has accepted an invitation as Keynote Speaker and special guest for WBBA's joint Governor's Life Sciences Summit and Annual Meeting to be held October 22, 2010 at Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington. For his extensive work on behalf of the life sciences, Representative Inslee was recently named as the National Biotechnology Industry Organization's Legislator of the Year.

"In addition to experiencing great advances in their work to heal, feed and fuel the world at a quickening pace, the life science industry represents a critical economic driver for our state and region," said Representative Jay Inslee.

"Representative Inslee really understands the role that the life sciences play in Washington's innovation economy," said Chris E. Rivera, President, WBBA. "We are thrilled that Jay will join us."

Congressman Inslee has represented Washington state's 1st Congressional District since 1999 and has brought a common-sense approach to Congress to help expand Washington State's life sciences economy. Inslee currently serves as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and is the founder and co-chair of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition which includes 54 members of the House of Representatives. He co-sponsored legislation to help bring critical biologic medicines to those who need them while ensuring that innovation continues to address serious unmet medical needs. Representative Inslee, along with his colleagues in the Quality Care Coalition, played a pivotal role in the passage of health insurance reform which improves prescription drug coverage for seniors and puts into place significant reforms to Medicare reimbursement rates, ending the decades long problem of rate disparity affecting Washington health care providers.

In May 2005, Governor Gregoire signed an act creating the Life Sciences Discovery Fund with a directive to "promote life sciences research to foster a preventative and predictive vision of the next generation of health-related innovations, to enhance the competitive position of Washington State in this vital sector of the economy, and to improve the quality and delivery of health care for the people of Washington." In 2006 Governor Chris Gregoire signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" between Washington and Queensland, Australia to develop collaborative projects in the fields of biotechnology and the life sciences. That memorandum of understanding has grown to a vital collaborative network of research institutions, scientists and companies in both countries. She has signed into law global health technologies legislation designed to ensure that Washington remains competitive in the life sciences global health arena.

#### **About the WBBA Governor's Summit and Annual Meeting**

For the first time, WBBA is combining the power of both the Governor's Summit and its Annual Meeting. More than 800 leaders of Washington's life sciences community are expected to gather on October 22, 2010 from 07:30 to 10:30 a.m. Pacific. This intense program will be a celebration of our successes, as well as address current challenges and coming opportunities in life sciences locally, nationally and globally.

#### **About the WBBA**

The Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association is a not-for-profit association of more than 450 life sciences companies, universities, academic institutions and others working together with the mission of providing better health to people everywhere. Since 1990, the WBBA has been headquartered in Seattle and have had a staff member in Eastern Washington for more than two years working to help the industry translate innovation to commercialization and the creation of more life science jobs in the state. Members enjoy access to many great events throughout the year, purchasing discounts, governmental advocacy, timely industry news, as well as the opportunity to tap into the heart of the life sciences community in Washington. For more information, visit WBBA online at [www.washbio.org](http://www.washbio.org).

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