

Sent: Wed 10/19/2011 11:25 AM
Subject: bio manufacturing

As a biotechnology entrepreneur trying to grow business provide a service and employee biotechnologist, it would be nice if the government would not use my taxes to fund my competition so they can undercut by prices. I don't understand how it can be justified that tax exempt academic institutions supported by my taxes can offer commercial for profit biologics manufacturing services to my potential customers. It wrong on many levels.

First it directs funding that should be directed to basic research to support essentially a commercial resource that already exists in the private sector and may thrive without government interference in the market. Research funding to support legitimate basic investigation into chronic diseases is scare enough without unnecessarily siphoning funds for these redundant and inefficient pet projects. Diverting funds to these facilities shows scientists at their worst. Academic institutions are poorly suited and staffed for the types of expertise and skill sets necessary for successful biologics manufacture. The facilities end up as backwaters for scientific failures.

Secondly it is anticompetitive and antibusiness to support these expensive facilities when they exist and can provide services to academic and commercial customers at significant savings to the taxpayer while providing significantly higher level of quality.

Thirdly there is a fairness issue where these facilities are being exorbitantly funded with taxes generated in part by their competitors. Like all life sciences entrepreneurs I strongly support funding for NIH, NSF, basic research, directed disease research as the fuel for our bioeconomy. I have worked at NIH and served as a PHS officer. But to have academic facilities that compete in the commercial arena is intellectually unsound, wasteful of limited healthcare R&D funding, and unfair to life sciences entrepreneurs.

Best Regards,

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