THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 18, 2016

Stephen W. Linton, Ph.D.
Chairman, Eugene Bell Foundation
P.O. Box 577
New Freedom, Pennsylvania 17349

Dear Mr. Linton:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about providing timely diagnosis and treatment to tuberculosis patients in North Korea. We appreciate all of the difficult work the Eugene Bell Foundation has done over the decades, and the remarkable strides your organization has made to improve the lives of those who suffer from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

As you may be aware, our Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues Ambassador Bob King has worked closely with a variety of non-governmental organizations that seek to provide food, medical aid, and other humanitarian assistance in North Korea. I assure you that your organization's challenge to increase access to multidrug-resistant tuberculosis treatment in North Korea has not fallen on deaf ears. Given the highly technical nature of the issue you've raised, our colleagues at the Department of Commerce have agreed to further investigate the matter.

The United States remains deeply concerned about the well-being of the North Korean people. It is my hope we will accomplish a workable solution to meet your appeal.

Sincerely,

John F. Kerry

John F. Kerry