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**Letters**

## Talk of the Town hides Bayer truths

Regarding the Talk of the Town item "Bayer swallows tax breaks, feels a lot better about the Bay Area" (May 21-27 issue):

We commend the San Francisco Business Times for recognizing the importance of Bayer's recent announcement to move to Mission Bay and employ 65 people, as well as for informing readers of Bayer's competitive efforts to remain in Emeryville, where an educated workforce allows the organization to manufacture a treatment for MS. However, Jim Gardner's implication that Bayer is bucking the system is harmful to the community's efforts to create jobs.

California's life sciences industry

employs more than 279,000 people, with more than 2,750 in San Francisco alone. The economic engine associated with research and development is a prized benefit cherished by other states and nations that leverage public dollars to incent companies to leave the Golden State. Thirty-eight states offer an R&D credit, 34 states exempt sales tax for equipment used in R&D anywhere in the state — not just in enterprise zones — 33 states exempt sales tax equipment for biomanufacturing, and seven states have a sales tax exemption specifically targeting bioscience firms. Contrary to these policies, California has yet to implement treatment of net operating losses as favorable as federal standards, and until last year it placed a higher state income tax on companies that added facilities or jobs in California year to year.

Contrary to Mr. Gardner's view, the incentives offered by San Francisco

and Berkeley were not corporate giveaways. They were in fact modest economic development tools needed to remain competitive and to keep jobs in our community. In doing so, Bayer will continue to manufacture in Berkeley, San Francisco has 65 new researchers, and our region continues to impress the world in its effort to remain the oldest, most productive life sciences cluster in the world.

**GAIL MADERIS**

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