



July 8, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
224 Dirksen Office Building
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
152 Dirksen Office Building
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Confirmation Hearing on Director of the USPTO

Dear Senators Leahy and Sessions:

We write to urge you to schedule a hearing as soon as possible on David J. Kappos, the President's nominee for Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The USPTO continues to face record backlogs and many other challenges hindering effective processing of patent applications. It is critical for new management to be put in place as soon as possible to address these challenges.

IPO, established in 1972, is a trade association representing companies, individuals, law firms and others who own or are interested in patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets. Our members include a broad spectrum of more than 150 large and mid-size companies in industries ranging from information technology to consumer products to pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. Our 50-member Board of Directors seeks to balance the views of these varied interests when expressing positions on legislative, judicial and agency issues.

Mr. Kappos has an exceptional record in intellectual property law and significant experience in industry as a manager. He has worked within IPO and other associations to improve IP practice and communications with the USPTO. He meets all the qualifications that IPO set out recently in letters to the Obama Administration for the position for which he has been nominated.

Thank you for your efforts to improve the USPTO and your swift action on this nominee.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Miller
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Mars Incorporated
Suzanne M. Shema
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