



September 28, 2010

Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Room S 128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Richard Shelby
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Room S 128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Mikulski and Shelby:

Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) urges you to request an amendment to the Continuing Resolution to authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to have access to all user fees collected by the agency in fiscal year 2010 – about \$70 million in addition to amounts already made available, according to PTO officials.

The \$70 million is user fee collections, not taxpayer dollars. We appreciate that it is difficult to obtain amendments to the Continuing Resolution, but our members would be very grateful for your help. They pay fees to the PTO believing the fees will be used to reduce the patent backlog and address other PTO needs. If action is not taken by September 30, for all practical purposes the \$70 million will be lost.

The membership of IPO includes more than 250 companies and 11,000 individuals involved in IPO through their companies or law firms or as individual members. Our members constitute approximately one-third of the domestic users of the PTO. They span the information technology, pharmaceutical, biotech and traditional manufacturing industries. They believe strongly that a more effective PTO will spur innovation and job creation.

We thank you for your diligent efforts in the past to improve the PTO. We stand ready to work with you to help members of Congress understand that an amendment to the Continuing Resolution would not require use of any general taxpayer revenues.

Sincerely,

Douglas K. Norman
President

cc: Senate Majority Leader Reid, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, Appropriations Committee Chairman Inouye, Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Cochran, Judiciary Committee Chairman Leahy, Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Sessions

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