



July 16, 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) strongly supports President Obama's July 12 request for an amendment to FY 2010 proposals in his FY 2011 Budget for the Department of Commerce, to help reduce backlogs in processing patent applications in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

The amount requested by the President's proposed amendment would be fully offset by a proposed cancellation of FY 2010 unobligated balances from within other Department of Commerce programs.

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. We constitute approximately one-third of the domestic users of the PTO. Our members span the information technology, pharmaceutical, biotech and traditional manufacturing industries. *They all agree that the United States needs an effective PTO to keep our nation competitive, spur innovation and create new jobs.*

We appreciate your work over the past several years to make sure that the PTO has been fully funded. We urge you to seek prompt passage of the proposed amendment, which will be a great help for FY 2010. We stand ready to work with you in this regard.

Sincerely,

Herbert C. Wamsley
Executive Director

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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