



October 29, 2013

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Darrell Issa
U.S. House of Representatives
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mel Watt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual
Property, and the Internet
B-352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
513 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: IPO Support for H.R. 3349, the Innovation Protection Act

Dear Ranking Members Conyers and Watt and Representatives Issa and Collins:

Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) writes to express its strong support for H.R. 3349, the Innovation Protection Act, to provide for the permanent funding of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

IPO is a trade association representing companies and individuals in all industries and fields of technology who own or are interested in intellectual property rights. IPO's membership includes more than 200 companies and more than 12,500 individuals who are involved in the association either through their companies or as inventor, author, law firm, or attorney members. Our members all agree that the United States needs a fully-funded USPTO to keep our nation competitive, encourage innovation and create new jobs.

Over the last two decades the government has withheld, diverted or sequestered about \$1 billion in USPTO user fee collections. The approach used by H.R.3349, which removes the USPTO from the congressional appropriations process, is the most promising approach we know for stopping the hemorrhaging of USPTO fees. We hope the House will move ahead with the bill as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help in securing full, permanent funding for the USPTO. We stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Herbert C. Wamsley
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Exxon Mobil Corp.

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Medtronic, Inc.
Lisa Jorgenson
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GlaxoSmithKline
David J. Koris
Shell International B.V.
Allen Lo
Google Inc.
Timothy F. Loomis
Qualcomm, Inc.
Steven W. Miller
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Douglas K. Norman
Eli Lilly and Co.
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United Technologies, Corp.
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Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
Curtis Rose
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Oracle USA, Inc.
Manny Schecter
IBM, Corp.
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Pitney Bowes Inc.
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