



April 16, 2015

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 201515

Dear Representative Conyers and Representative Sensenbrenner:

The Innovation Alliance, a coalition of research and development-focused companies, thanks you and your cosponsors for introducing the Innovation Protection Act, which will put an end to fee diversion once and for all. We have long maintained that ending fee diversion, and thereby giving the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (“USPTO”) all of the fees it is paid by patent applicants, is the single most important change policymakers can make to improve the U.S. patent system.

Over the last 20 years, approximately \$1 billion in fees paid by patent applicants has been diverted from its proper use at the USPTO. This unwarranted diversion of fees has resulted in more than 600,000 unexamined patent applications and more than 27 months in the average patent pendency time. Ending this tax on innovation is perhaps the one change to the patent law that unites stakeholders from all parts of the innovation ecosystem in the United States.

The Innovation Alliance thanks you for your leadership on this critically important issue for the patent system. We look forward to working with you and your cosponsors to pass the Innovation Protection Act into law as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Brian Pomper
Executive Director
Innovation Alliance