



April 16, 2015

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Courts,
Intellectual Property, and the Internet
U.S. House of Representatives
1504 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Conyers and Representative Collins:

Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) writes to express **strong support for H.R. 1832, 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 through their companies or as inventor, author, law firm, or attorney members.

The U.S. 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.1832, 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
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Ted Deutch
The Honorable Trent Franks
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
The Honorable Jerry Nadler, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Courts,
Intellectual Property, and the Internet
The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
The Honorable James Sensenbrenner

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