

July 28, 2010

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
State and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol Room H-309
Washington, D.C. 20515-6015

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
State and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Longworth HOB Room 1001
Washington, D.C. 20515-6015

RE: SUPPORT FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE USPTO

Dear Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf:

On behalf of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), I am writing to express our strong support for additional funding for the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Innovation is the key to economic recovery, and the Office is in urgent need of additional resources which will support efforts to improve quality and reduce backlogs in processing patent applications. These steps will significantly benefit the intellectual property system.

AIPLA is a national bar association of more than 15,000 members engaged in private and corporate practice, in government service, and in academia. AIPLA represents a wide and diverse spectrum of individuals, companies, and institutions involved directly or indirectly in the practice of patent, trademark, and copyright law, as well as other fields of law affecting intellectual property. Our members represent both owners and users of intellectual property, and they have a keen interest in a strong and efficient patent system.

As introduced, H.R. 5874 would provide the USPTO with an additional \$129 million, making available FY 2010 USPTO fee collections, and would grant the USPTO spending authority of up to \$2.06 billion in total. The bill would grant a significant portion of the Administration's request for additional funding, and provide that the increase would be fully offset by a proposed cancellation of FY 2010 unobligated balances from within the Department of Commerce's Census Bureau, thereby avoiding budgetary complications. While we remain concerned overall that not all fee collections may be made available to the Office, we support this bill as necessary and critical to operations of the USPTO for FY2010.

We thank you for all your efforts at improving the intellectual property system, as well as for considering our views. AIPLA is committed to a strong, efficient, and predictable patent system and is eager to work with you to achieve that goal and we urge support for more resources for the USPTO.

Sincerely,



Q. Todd Dickinson
Executive Director