



September 21, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, Room H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515-6537

RE: SUPPORT FOR FUNDING THE USPTO IN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), I am writing to voice our serious concern regarding H.J. Res. 79, the Continuing Resolution with respect to the funding of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

AIPLA is a national bar association of approximately 16,000 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.

During the recent consideration of H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act, there was nearly universal recognition of the need to better fund the USPTO, and assurances were given that improved funding would be made available to the Office in order for it to perform its work without delays. And yet, the pending Continuing Resolution fails to include an anomaly to ensure that monies will be made available to the USPTO at a time when the Office is in desperate need of additional resources. This is particularly so in light of the challenges to be brought by implementing the new patent law.

We urge you to make every effort to provide the USPTO with the much needed additional resources by including an anomaly in the Continuing Resolution. AIPLA is committed to a strong, efficient, and predictable patent system and is eager to work with you to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

David W. Hill
AIPLA President