

UNITED *for* PATENT REFORM

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Contact: Beau Phillips
beau@resetpa.com

Main Street American Businesses, Innovators and Inventors Welcome Introduction of New Fee-Setting Reauthorization Bill

Proposed legislation would introduce improvements to enhance patent quality

WASHINGTON — *United for Patent Reform – a coalition made up of hundreds of companies from nearly every sector of the U.S. economy – today expressed its support for the Building Innovation Growth through Data for Intellectual Property Act, or “BIG Data for IP Act,” introduced by Representatives Steve Chabot (OH-01) and Hank Johnson (GA-04). The following statement may be attributed to the United for Patent Reform coalition:*

“We applaud this legislation from Representatives Chabot and Johnson to reauthorize the Patent and Trademark Office’s fee-setting authority for another 10 years and require the PTO to report on and modernize its IT infrastructure and use of data science techniques. Both aspects of this bill are key to enhancing patent quality, improving the examination process and ensuring a decrease in abusive patent litigation that targets companies of all sizes and prevent them from growing, innovating and creating jobs.

“When Congress passed the America Invents Act (AIA) of 2011 on a bipartisan basis, it gave the PTO the authority to set the fees that it uses to fund the examination, issuance and renewal of patents. Under the current fees system, fees for the less expensive process of granting patents can be used to cover the higher cost of examinations, creating an incentive to grant lower-quality patents to cover budget shortfalls. With fee-setting authorization expiring this year, the BIG Data for IP Act is an important step toward correcting this imbalance in the fee structure and improving patent quality across our system.

“Similarly, requirements to introduce a plan for modernizing the PTO information technology infrastructure and expand its use of data science tools stand to improve the examination process. A stronger examination process would in turn mean a decrease in the challenges that accompany low-quality patents, from abusive patent litigation to the frequency of *Inter Partes* Review procedures.

“American companies of all sizes need Congress to champion policies that enhance patent quality and ensure they can continue to grow and thrive. We’re pleased that Congress has taken this important step to ensure the PTO has the tools it needs to continue issuing strong, high-quality patents to America’s inventors.”

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