

# UNITED *for* PATENT REFORM

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## **Main Street American Businesses, Innovators and Inventors Welcome Confirmation of New USPTO Director**

Andrei Iancu to lead USPTO at a critical time for patent community

*The following statement may be attributed to the United for Patent Reform coalition:*

The United for Patent Reform coalition and its hundreds of trade association, corporate and individual small business members, who together own thousands of patents, welcomed the confirmation of Andrei Iancu to be the next Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). As head of the USPTO, Mr. Iancu, a widely-respected patent litigator, will have the opportunity to champion strong and effective policies that support patent quality, job creation, innovation, and economic growth for all American businesses.

We applaud Mr. Iancu's statement during his confirmation hearing that "We must continue to improve patent quality in order to foster further invention and growth," and urge him to make enhancing patent quality a priority of his tenure.

One of the leading programs that helps to improve patent quality and strengthen the patent system is the USPTO's *Inter Partes* Review (IPR) process. Established by the American Invents Act of 2011 and the subject of Congressional bipartisan support, IPR gives the USPTO the ability to examine questionable patents and determine whether they should have been granted in the first place. Many of the patents it has since found invalid had been used by patent trolls to back abusive litigation against America's small businesses and startups, which often could not afford to fight back in the courts. Since IPR is less expensive than lengthy litigation, the program has been an especially helpful tool for these businesses, which are so essential to our economy.

American companies of all sizes have come to rely on IPR and other tools to deter litigation abuse and weed out invalid patents, and as a result have saved hundreds of millions of dollars per year in abusive litigation costs. We look forward to working with Mr. Iancu to support these essential programs and achieve his goals of improving patent quality, combating abusive patent litigation and fostering a system that encourages innovation.

### **About United for Patent Reform**

United for Patent Reform is a broad coalition of diverse American businesses—from national Realtor, construction, and technology businesses to Main Street retail shops, automobile manufacturers, hotels, grocers, convenience stores, and restaurants—pursuing comprehensive solutions to abusive patent litigation. For more information, visit [www.UnitedforPatentReform.com](http://www.UnitedforPatentReform.com) and follow us on Twitter at [@U4PatentReform](https://twitter.com/U4PatentReform).