



16 April 2015

The Honorable John Conyers, Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Conyers,

IEEE-USA would like to express our support for the provisions of the “*Innovation Protection Act*” which will establish permanent funding for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Our members have long felt that the diversion of revenues derived from intellectual property applications was a detriment to the quality of patents and trademarks. By establishing a permanent fund for operation of the services, programs, activities, and duties of the agency, Congress is helping to guarantee the strength and effectiveness of the office most responsible for ensuring the continued success of our innovation economy.

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) founded in 1884 by such prolific inventors as Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison, Edward Weston, and Alexander Graham Bell. Today, IEEE-USA’s more than 200,000 members in all 50 states serve on the “front line” of the U.S. patent system, creating cutting-edge technology, and acquiring, licensing, and marketing that technology. They depend on the USPTO’s ability to approve strong patents upon which the health of their businesses, both large and small, depends.

We look forward to a working with you on this issue and if you have any questions or would like support information, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Wissolik at (202) 530-8347 or [e.wissolik@ieee.org](mailto:e.wissolik@ieee.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James A. Jefferies".

James Jefferies  
2015 IEEE-USA President