

4 March 2015

The Honorable Christopher Coons
United States Senate
127A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: The STRONG Patents Act of 2015

Dear Senator Coons,

IEEE-USA is pleased to offer our support for the STRONG Patents Act of 2015 and we commend you for introducing legislation to revise U.S. patent law that balances the need to reduce abusive litigation with the need to sustain American leadership in innovation.

With the introduction of this legislation, you and Senators Durbin and Hirono have provided safeguards for U.S. technology entrepreneurs. These individuals are substantially responsible for creating the largest percentage of new high paying jobs, and are key contributors to economic recovery and U.S. competitiveness in the global markets. The STRONG Act includes proposals that IEEE-USA has continuously called for, namely elimination of USPTO fee diversion and an assessment of the impact of our patent system on the American economy.

Our patent system does have room for improvement and we thank you for proposing thoughtful legislation which targets the real problems without rushing to pass sweeping changes. Without carefully assessing the impact of changes on those who rely heavily on patent protection, anything else could negatively affect the inventors, entrepreneurs, and U.S. small businesses who have built our innovation economy.

IEEE-USA represents more than 200,000 engineers, scientists, and allied professionals whose livelihoods depend on American technology companies and their domestic research and development operations. Our members work for large and small companies, and as individual inventors or entrepreneurs, and depend on a strong American patent system.

We thank you for your attention to these important matters. If we can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Wissolik at (202) 530-8347 or e.wissolik@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Jefferies".

James A. Jefferies
2015 President, IEEE-USA

4 March 2015

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: The STRONG Patents Act of 2015

Dear Senator Durbin,

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James A. Jefferies
2015 President, IEEE-USA

4 March 2015

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Re: The STRONG Patents Act of 2015

Dear Senator Hirono,

IEEE-USA is pleased to offer our support for the STRONG Patents Act of 2015 and we commend you for introducing legislation to revise U.S. patent law that balances the need to reduce abusive litigation with the need to sustain American leadership in innovation.

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

James A. Jefferies
2015 President, IEEE-USA