

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2018

The Honorable Wilber Ross
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Andrei Iancu
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Secretary Ross and Under Secretary Iancu:

We write to express concern in the dramatic drop in our Nation's standing in global intellectual property rankings. In the past two years, the United States' patent system has fallen from being ranked #1 in the world in 2016, down to #12 in 2018.¹ This alarming drop is said to be "primarily driven by relative weakness in patentability requirements and patent opposition."

The U.S. patent system is crucial to promoting innovation and job creation. The Commerce Department itself has determined that industries that rely on strong intellectual property rights support 27.9 million jobs and help to maintain America's competitive edge in the global economy.²

Given the importance of patents in maintaining America's global competitiveness, the drop in our Nation's patenting rankings is especially troubling as American workers and businesses compete with the rest of the world in today's global, knowledge-based economy.

We ask that you affirm your commitment to ensuring that the U.S. patent system is and remains the strongest and most robust patent system in the world. We also ask that you provide us with information on your specific plans and initiatives to achieve that goal. If you believe that legislation is necessary or would be beneficial in strengthening the U.S. patent system, we look forward to receiving your recommendations for crafting appropriate legislation.

¹ *Compare* U.S. Chamber International IP Index, Fourth Edition, Feb. 2016, *with* U.S. Chamber International IP Index, Sixth Edition, Feb. 2018.

² U.S. Department of Commerce, Intellectual Property and the U.S. Economy, 2016 Update.

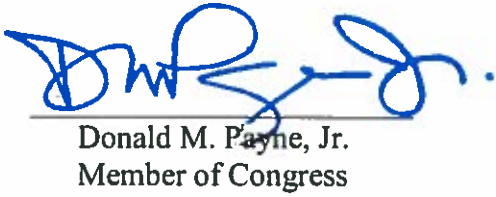
Sincerely,



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



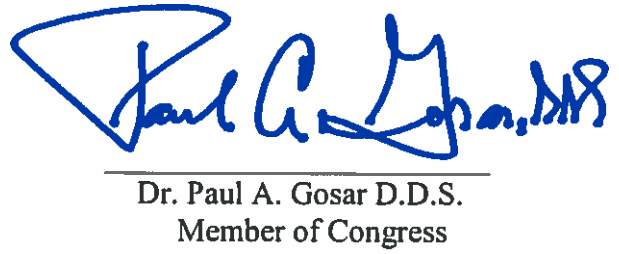
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



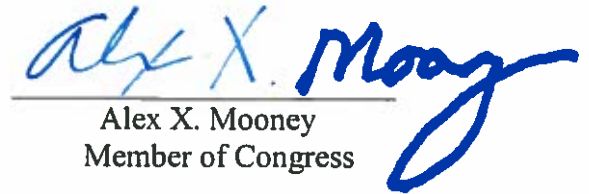
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



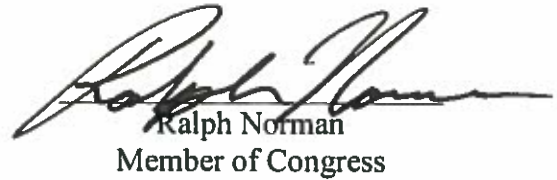
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Dr. Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress