

# Patent Office Professional Association

Box 25287, Alexandria, VA 22313

July 20, 2010

Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related  
Agencies  
SH-503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice Science and Related  
Agencies  
SR-304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Alan B. Mollohan, Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related  
Agencies  
2302 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Frank R. Wolf, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice Science and Related  
Agencies  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf,

I am contacting you today on behalf of the more than 6,100 bargaining unit members of the Patent Office Professional Association (POPA) – the patent examiners and other patent professionals at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) – to request your support for a supplemental appropriation for the USPTO in FY 2010.

In particular, I would like you to know that POPA joins with the USPTO and the Obama Administration in requesting your support for President Obama's July 12, 2010 request for an additional supplemental FY 2010 appropriation of \$129,000,000 for the USPTO with approval to spend up to an additional \$150,000,000 should the USPTO's fee collections exceed the appropriated amounts.

POPA believes this supplemental appropriation is urgently needed to allow the USPTO to compensate for the recent economic downturn and the agency's fluctuations in fee income over the last two fiscal years. We believe this additional appropriation will help all of us at the USPTO better address the needs of USPTO employees, the intellectual property community and the American people in these difficult economic times.

I would like to thank each of you for the incredible support you have shown for our patent professionals throughout the years. Your support has enabled POPA and the USPTO to

work together in many ways to constructively address the many issues facing the USPTO. I hope we can rely on your continued support now and in the future.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am currently out of the office for some medical issues so I have included both my office and personal contact information below. Please feel free to contact me at home if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

*/Robert D. Budens/*

Robert D. Budens, President  
Patent Office Professional Association

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