

Patent Office Professional Association

Box 15848, Arlington, VA 22215

September 4, 2007

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter,

The Patent Office Professional Association (POPA), representing the more than 5,200 patent examiners and other patent professionals at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), **opposes** the Patent Reform Act of 2007 (H.R. 1908 and S. 1145). We hope that you will consider our concerns, as set forth on the accompanying position paper, withdraw S. 1145 from the Floor and reconsider the issues we raise.

As patent examiners, we are on the front lines of protecting intellectual property in America. Yet our opinion was never sought.

We take a keen interest in any proposed patent legislation that affects the patent system and the examination process. As now proposed, this legislation contains many provisions that would hurt – not help – America’s economic well-being by weakening the U.S. Patent System.

The best solution to the problems with the USPTO is to ensure that the agency retains experienced and highly skilled patent examiners and provides them with the tools and time necessary to uncover relevant references during examination.

Why not get the job done right the first time?

To that end, POPA proposes that Congress provide for a direct allocation of time for examination based on the average filing fee per application and the average hourly examiner salary.

POPA welcomes the interest of Congress in the U.S. Patent System. We hope that we can work together to provide a strong and robust system that will continue to drive innovation in America.

Sincerely,

/Robert D. Budens /

Robert D. Budens, President
Patent Office Professional Association
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