



1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, California 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9074  
Fax: (510) 987-9086  
<http://www.ucop.edu>

April 7, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As President of the University of California (UC) and on behalf of the ten Chancellors from across the UC system, I want to thank you for your leadership on patent reform.

The University appreciates the thorough and balanced patent reforms you helped shepherd to enactment in the America Invents Act in 2011. We also support new efforts to curb rising patent troll abuses, while protecting legitimate intellectual property rights that are important to innovation and economic growth in California and across the nation. UC also endorses your Patent Fee Integrity Act legislation.

As you know, universities are the bedrock of innovation in our country. The University of California leads U.S. universities in the number of patents awarded annually by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. It is critical that our nation has a strong U.S. patent system that supports the rights of good faith patent holders to ensure that early stage innovations created at universities will be taken up by businesses and turned into products that benefit society. If patent protections are weakened, or it becomes more difficult to enforce patent rights, the commercialization of early stage inventions from universities and other legitimate inventors and patent holders will be impaired.

The University of California continues to work closely with our industry and association partners, including the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the American Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), to convey our position regarding patent reform to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The University stands with AAU and APLU, as well as a number of other universities, associations and organizations in urging the Committee to complete action on legislation that will protect legitimate patent holders and strengthen U.S. patent laws.

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein

April 7, 2014


Page 2

We appreciate your and your staff's ongoing efforts to work collaboratively with universities, inventors, startup businesses, industries, venture capitalists, and others to continue to strengthen the U.S. patent system with careful reforms that address abusive conduct. Making refinements that target bad behavior and limit unintended impacts on legitimate patent holders will only make the U.S. patent system stronger.

In particular, the University of California supports provisions that Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy has included in S.1720 regarding small business education, outreach and education, protection of intellectual property licenses in bankruptcy, and codification of the double patenting doctrine. UC remains concerned about some proposals under discussion, including fee shifting, joinder and the statutory limits on needed discovery including bonding requirements. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these issues.

If I or my staff can be of assistance on this issue as the committee continues deliberations, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or with Gary Falle, UC Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations. He can be reached by telephone at (202) 974-6319, or by email at Gary.Falle@ucdc.edu.

Yours very truly,

  
Janet Napolitano  
President

cc: Chancellors  
Provost Dorr  
Senior Vice President Dooley  
Vice President Beckwith  
General Counsel Robinson  
Associate Vice President Falle