



USIJ

April 29, 2015

The Honorable Lee Terry
Chairman
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Terry and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

The Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs (USIJ) is a group of nearly 50 Silicon Valley-based innovative startups, inventors, investors and entrepreneurs. Collectively, we have launched dozens of companies in areas ranging from biotechnology to medical devices and wireless technology. We invent real things and create real companies. We also rely on the strength of the U.S. patent system to create these companies, breakthroughs and jobs. In no other country on earth could we do what we do, and it is a direct result of the value the U.S. places on invention and intellectual property.

I am writing on behalf of USIJ to express our support for the Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act.

It is essential that legislation is able to effectively strike a balance of protecting the rights of legitimate patent holders, while effectively targeting those who are abusing the system. We believe that the TROL Act will accomplish this. The approach taken by the TROL Act to provide additional guidance regarding the enforcement capabilities of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for enforcement, and clarification regarding what constitutes an abusive patent demand letter, provides a targeted approach that will significantly reduce abusive practices directed towards unwitting end-users and consumers.

Importantly, the TROL Act also preserves the ability of patent owners to communicate legitimate and legally-sound claims to those who may be infringing patented technologies. This is especially important to the startups and entrepreneurs who rely on the ability to protect their patents.

U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs
usij.org

USIJ commends the work of the Committee to put forward a thoughtful and well-balanced piece of legislation, and we look forward to working with you as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Giancarlo". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charlie Giancarlo
Chairman of the Board of Advisors for The Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs

