



January 27, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz & Ranking Member Cantwell,

As the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee prepares to consider Howard Lutnick's nomination to be the next Secretary of Commerce, the Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs (USIJ) would like to express its strong support for Mr. Lutnick to lead the U.S. Department of Commerce. He is a trailblazer in the financial services sector and demonstrated extraordinary leadership in rebuilding Cantor Fitzgerald in the tragic aftermath of September 11. As a prolific inventor and entrepreneur who has contributed to over 700 U.S. patents and publications, he is also uniquely prepared to lead the critical functions of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as Secretary of Commerce.

The Department of Commerce plays a pivotal role in fostering economic growth, advancing technological innovation, and ensuring American businesses remain competitive on the global stage. Among its many vital agencies, the USPTO stands out as the cornerstone of the American innovation ecosystem, providing the legal framework that protects intellectual property, incentivizes investment, and drives our nation's technological advancements.

Under Mr. Lutnick's leadership, we are confident the USPTO will benefit from his commitment to strengthen the U.S. patent system. As a community of stakeholders representing inventors, venture investors, entrepreneurs and research organizations, we know the importance of a patent system that prioritizes predictability, efficiency, and robust protections for intellectual property.

We look forward to working with Mr. Lutnick to re-establish the strong role that USPTO played in the first Trump Administration when it led efforts to reduce duplicative challenges at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, develop clear standards for patent eligibility, resist efforts led by Big Tech to weaken patent protections for disruptive competitors and fight to uphold strong IP

protections internationally. We urge you and the entire U.S. Senate to strongly support Mr. Lutnick's confirmation as Secretary of Commerce.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Israel".

Chris Israel
Executive Director
Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs