



March 25, 2026

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts,
Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence,
and the Internet
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hank Johnson
Ranking Member
The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts,
Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence,
and the Internet
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Issa, Ranking Member Johnson, and Members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet:

On behalf of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE), a leading voice for pro-growth, free-market policies that support American consumers, I write to urge the committee during [today's hearing](#) to prioritize much-needed reforms to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) processes. To preserve a strong innovation economy, the USPTO must pursue reforms that would limit duplicative litigation, strengthen protections for patent holders, and ensure the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) system promotes innovation.

A stable patent system is critical to ensure that inventors, entrepreneurs, and businesses have the certainty needed to invest in research and development (R&D) and deliver tomorrow's life-changing products. However, procedural inefficiencies and inconsistencies within USPTO processes, particularly in relation to the PTAB, have introduced instability that threatens innovation, undermines confidence in the patent system, and risks weakening U.S. competitiveness in innovative healthcare and emerging technologies.

PTAB processes were originally designed to offer a more efficient, cost-effective pathway for evaluating patent validity. In practice, however, the system has evolved to allow duplicative and often frivolous challenges, enabling well-funded larger companies to target patents held by smaller innovators. This dynamic places a disproportionate burden on small entities that lack the resources to defend against prolonged legal disputes. As a result, time and capital are diverted away from R&D that fuels potentially life-changing breakthroughs for consumers, such as the next generation of treatments and cures in medicine.

Instability in the intellectual property system can have real economic consequences. Strong IP protections help drive economic growth—[one study found](#) that small patent holding companies are 87 times more likely to grow and succeed. Yet increasing unpredictability, driven by repeated challenges, threatens to undermine that progress and discourage future investment.

Reforms to the USPTO processes should focus on restoring balance and predictability. Without stronger protections for patent holders and clearer, more predictable standards, the patent system risks discouraging the very innovation it is meant to promote.

CASE urges lawmakers to prioritize reforms that give innovators and investors the confidence to pursue long-term R&D and strengthen our country's competitive innovation ecosystem.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Gerard Scimeca
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE)