



February 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of more than 215,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals represented by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America (IEEE-USA), we commend you and your colleagues in the 111th Congress for your efforts to restore America's economic strength.

As innovators whose creativity has been responsible for much of the strength of the American economy, we know that financial recovery will depend on the ability of American companies to create, manufacture and sell new products. This cannot happen without strong intellectual property rights and a reliable, well-functioning U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. We therefore call on the 111th Congress to complement economic stimulus efforts with reform of the U.S. patent system.

IEEE-USA believes that the current management and authority of the USPTO has resulted in disincentives to American inventiveness. An increasingly overburdened and inefficient patent system is stifling the creation and growth of both new businesses and jobs by threatening the financial rewards available to innovators. If left unaddressed by cogent legislation, the patent system is likely to evolve into one that is harmful to U.S. inventors and businesses. IEEE-USA urges patent reform legislation to continue supporting Constitutional aims and incentives, to permit, encourage and reward Americans who choose to become innovators, and to assure a state of stability sufficient to permit planning and investment.

We have attached a copy of our recent position statement, *Patent Reform: U.S. Innovation, Entrepreneurialism and Competitiveness*. This statement suggests policy recommendations that a group of stakeholders – inventors, business owners, and patent attorneys – agree would enhance the U.S. patent system. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Wissolik at (202) 530-8347 or e.wissolik@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

Gordon W. Day, PhD
2009 President, IEEE-USA

Keith Grzelak, M.S.E.E., J.D.
2009 Chairman, IEEE-USA Intellectual Property Committee



February 11, 2009

The Honorable Steney Hoyer
Office of the House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Hoyer:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon W. Day".

Gordon W. Day, PhD
2009 President, IEEE-USA

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Keith Grzelak, M.S.E.E., J.D.
2009 Chairman, IEEE-USA Intellectual Property Committee



February 11, 2009

The Honorable Harold Reid
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

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Sincerely,

Gordon W. Day, PhD
2009 President, IEEE-USA

Keith Grzelak, M.S.E.E., J.D.
2009 Chairman, IEEE-USA Intellectual Property Committee



February 11, 2009

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Office of the Senate Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Republican Leader McConnell:

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