

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write regarding the pending nomination of Kathi Vidal to be the next Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). As you know, the intellectual property system is critical to the U.S. economy and a foundation of U.S. leadership in innovation and technological advancement. The appointment of a qualified Director to lead the agency is particularly important to U.S. innovation.

This critical position has been vacant of long-term leadership for more than a year. The USPTO is responsible for some of the most consequential issues in intellectual property law and is integral to the health of the U.S. economy. The lack of a presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed Director hampers the agency's ability to effect policy and fully support stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem. It is crucial that the position be filled as soon as possible.

President Biden's nominee Kathi Vidal has a sterling resume and is abundantly qualified for this position. We urge the U.S. Senate to move swiftly to confirm Ms. Vidal.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Coyne  
President  
American Intellectual Property Law Association



Karen Cochran  
President  
Intellectual Property Owners Association