

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

Intellectual property is a source of tremendous value in our economy. Together, our organizations represent a broad coalition of inventors, creators, manufacturers, technology and life science companies, small businesses, venture capitalists, and startup communities who appreciate the importance of intellectual property to our national, state, and local economies.

We write to you today to urge the Senate to promptly consider the nomination of Andrei Iancu to be the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Mr. Iancu's nomination was favorably reported with no opposition by the Senate Judiciary Committee on December 14, 2017.

We trust in the notion that our IP regime must have robust and forward-looking leadership if the United States is to maintain our position of innovation prominence. It is for this reason that we urge the Senate to promptly consider the nomination of Mr. Iancu. The Under Secretary is the principal advisor to the President of the United States through the Secretary of Commerce, and to the Administration on all intellectual property policy matters and the chief executive of the USPTO. If confirmed, Mr. Iancu will provide strategic leadership over all aspects of the USPTO, ensuring the agency achieves strategic and management goals, including quality, timeliness, cost-effectiveness, and transparency.

Our nation's economy will benefit from a strong and trusted Senate-confirmed Under Secretary. Accordingly, we hope you will endeavor to expeditiously consider the nomination of Mr. Iancu, ideally before the end of the current calendar year. We realize there is little time remaining this calendar year but, by all accounts, Mr. Iancu enjoys broad bipartisan support and is very well-qualified for this important position. His active presence and leadership are greatly needed at the non-partisan USPTO.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
The Copyright Alliance
The Innovation Alliance
Medical Device Manufacturers Association
The Motion Picture Association of America
The National Venture Capital Association
The Recording Industry Association of America
The Songwriters Guild of America