

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

November 21, 2025

The Honorable John A. Squires
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Intellectual Property and
Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Under Secretary Squires:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is continuing its investigation into the lack of transparency across our legal system and oversight of federal agencies that support U.S. private sector innovation and economic growth including U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). USPTO plays a vital role in ensuring American innovation is protected and enabling businesses to grow and create new jobs. The Committee understands USPTO has initiated plans, including necessary departures from the policy of the previous Administration, to propose regulatory¹ changes to timely and fair adjudication of patent validity challenges. To understand how USPTO intends to implement these changes and further improve U.S. protections on intellectual property, the Committee requests a staff-level briefing.

The Committee has received evidence that in some cases before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), USPTO is not aware of the actual organizations or individuals funding or directing the petitions.² During the 118th Congress, the Committee investigated third-party litigation funding and found evidence that activists and foreign governments were abusing the lack of disclosure requirements to fund litigation that could undermine our economic and national security.³ On July 12, 2024, the Committee wrote Chief Justice John Roberts urging the Judicial Conference to “examine these unaffiliated funders of litigation and to consider enacting rules requiring disclosures of third-party litigation funding to protect litigants and ensure a fair adjudication of claims.”⁴

¹ Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Office of Management and Budget, View ICR -Agency Submission, OMB Control No: 0651-0069 (Oct. 17, 2025), https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref_nbr=202510-0651-001.

² [On file with the Committee].

³ Unsuitable Litigation: Oversight of Third-Party Litigation Funding: Hearing before the H. Comm. On Oversight and Gov't Reform, 118 Cong. (2023).

⁴ Letter from James Comer, Chairman H. Comm Oversight and Gov't Reform, to John Roberts, Chief Justice U.S. S. Ct. (Jul. 12, 2024).

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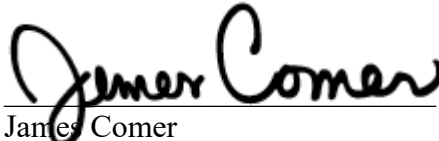
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On October 17, 2025, USPTO proposed significant changes to the inter partes review (IPR) before the PTAB.⁵ Additionally, on October 17, 2025, USPTO released an open letter and accompanying memo which noted that one of the major reasons for recent changes to adjudicative review mechanisms is a “perception of self-incentivization” inviting, even if for unfounded reasons, outside concern.⁶ I applaud your efforts, and changes happening across the Trump Administration to strengthen American leadership in innovation from life-saving medicines to artificial intelligence.⁷ Confidence in USPTO and our country’s system for rewarding innovation is vital for the patent community, businesses, and our future economy.

The Committee seeks to better understand USPTO reform initiatives and how the agency is coordinating with other federal agencies. To assist the Committee in its oversight, we request a staff-level briefing from USPTO to occur as soon as possible, but no later than November 28, 2025.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. To ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Comer" clearly distinguishable.

James Comer
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

⁵ Revision to Rules of Practice Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, 90 FR 48335 (proposed Oct. 17, 2025) (to be codified at 37 C.F.R. pt. 42)

⁶ Open Letter and Memo, Sec. Squires, *Bringing the USPTO Back to the Future: Return of Institution Authority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 314 and 324 to the Director* (Oct. 17, 2025),

https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/open-letter-and-memo_20251017.pdf.

⁷ Office of Sci. & Tech. Pol’y, The White House, *American’s AI Action Plan* (July 2025)
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf>.