



March 14, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the biotechnology industry, we thank you for introducing the Patent Fee Integrity Act and offer our full support.

As you know, the biotechnology industry is at the cutting-edge of the creation of lifesaving drugs and diagnostics, as well as critical agricultural, energy, and environmental advancements. Through the hard work and dedication of the millions of people the industry employs in the United States and abroad, we have developed cures and treatments for some of the world's most intractable diseases and we have addressed some of the most pressing agricultural, energy, and environmental challenges facing our society today. All of this innovation is possible because of the strength and predictability provided by the U.S. patent system.

To help ensure that we have a strong patent system it is absolutely essential that we have a fully funded Patent and Trademark Office so that it can provide the essential services for which American innovators pay. After nearly eight years of sustained Congressional interest in improving the nation's patent system, resulting in landmark legislation in 2011 and now progressing towards another major bill, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) still has neither full funding nor access to all user fees it collects. Your legislation would empower the USPTO to fully support America's innovators without adding to the deficit. We urge Congress to fix the PTO funding problem once and for all by passing the Patent Fee Integrity Act.

Sincerely,

Biotechnology Industry Organization  
BayBio  
Biocom  
California Healthcare Institute  
SoCalBio