



February 18, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 21028
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

I write on behalf of Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) to congratulate you on your confirmation to be the next Secretary of Commerce.

We encourage your administration to make intellectual property law and policy a priority, recognizing their critical role in driving innovation and economic growth. IPO is a broad-based trade association representing a diverse range of companies, law firms, service providers, and individuals across industries and fields of technology. Our membership includes over 125 companies committed to the development, protection, and advancement of intellectual property rights. We advocate for effective and accessible IP protections and provide a wide range of services, including legislative analysis, policy advocacy, and educational programs. Our vision is to accelerate creativity, investment, and technological advancement to benefit society.

IPO's members collectively hold tens of thousands of U.S. patents, accounting for a substantial portion of the patent applications filed every year at the USPTO, and include many of the world's most popular brand owners. Consequently, we rely heavily on the USPTO to provide reliable, effective, and efficient protection for our inventions via patents and our brands via trademarks. This IP protection is fundamental to the nation's economic growth and job creation.

We were heartened by your remarks during your confirmation hearing in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation recognizing the unacceptable nature of the current patent backlog and pendency numbers, and your commitment to ensuring that "American inventors get taken care of quickly and effectively" is a significant step in the right direction. For decades IPO and the USPTO have been close collaborators to ensure that the USPTO has sufficient resources to carry out its core functions. We look forward to partnering with the incoming leadership at the USPTO to address its current challenges and in particular the record backlog of unexamined patent applications.

Sincerely,

Krish Gupta (handwritten signature)

Krish Gupta
President

President
Krish Gupta
Dell Technologies

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