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The US Patent and Trademark Office is intended to fulfill the mandate of Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the Constitution that the legislative branch “promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing for limited times to inventors the exclusive right to their respective discoveries.”

Through the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, while there were renowned challenges to the patents ensuing from Clause 8 such as those related to the McCormack Reaper and the Vise Grip hand tool, the United States held the leadership in the world in encouraging invention with the resulting rewards to inventors. Such leadership provided great economic benefits to the entire Nation.

Unfortunately for our national wellbeing, misused legislation titled the American Invents Act, passed by the Congress in 2011 with the intent to streamline legal processes related to patent challenges, has had the opposite effect. Not only has it added to legal confusion, but the bottom line is the rapid decline of the United States from its reputation of encouraging patents from first place to twelfth place internationally.

It has been apparent since the direction of the USPTO came under an attorney for major US electronics industry interests in 2015 that this office was determined to undermine established and newly issued patents to the benefit of former clients.

Comes new Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to the Department of Commerce with jurisdiction over the PTO with a potentially and dramatically important reversal of previous policy as proposed by new PTO Director, Andrei Iancu.

It is this policy that will provide dramatic improvement in the efficiency of the patent management process and a return to strong encouragement to inventors in the United States in the development of new inventions adding to the economic wellbeing of the Nation.

Submitted by Bernard C. Nagelvoort

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