My name is Martin Sovis, a patented inventor and current president of the Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan based near Flint, Michigan. Our Council is the longest, continuously running Inventors group in Michigan organized in 1995. We are an active member of the Michigan Inventors Coalition, comprised of seven inventor groups within the State and conduct an annual exposition in East Lansing to introduce to the novice inventor areas of expertise and assistance. I am also an active member of the Inventor Groups of America as a representative for our Council. We are extremely concerned in what the America Invents Act has done to deteriorate the rights of individual inventors.

I am writing in support of proposed changes by the USPTO to the claim construction standard for interpreting claims in trial proceedings before the patent trial and appeal board. I feel this is very important to implement a fair and balanced approach, while providing greater predictability and certainty in the patent system. This will help patent holders trying to secure funding from investors. It must be clear to the investor that there is a predictable outcome, or they will place their investment elsewhere. This country was built by small inventors and the playing field must be level or innovation will be shuttered, as will our economy and the words.

Thank you for your consideration,

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