



Mail Stop Comments—Patents  
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Attention of Nicole Dretar Haines

April 25, 2014

Dear Ms. Haines:

I write today on behalf of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) and the USPTO's request for comments relating to crowdsourcing and third-party preissuance submissions to identify relevant prior art and enhance patent examination and quality of patents. We support crowdsourcing and third-party preissuance submissions as part of establishing a more transparent patent system and recommend that these methods are applied to all types of patents, including both design and utility. We recognize that current law does not allow for pre-grant publication of design patents, which limits the ability for third-party submissions and renders crowdsourcing unavailable in the case of design patents. We feel crowdsourcing can lead to stronger patents and call on the USPTO to support changes in the law that would allow both utility and design patents to take advantage of this resource.

WIPP is a national nonpartisan public policy organization that advocates for and on behalf of women and minorities in business in the legislative processes of our nation, creating economic opportunities and building bridges and alliances to other small business organizations. Through WIPP, our collective voice makes a powerful impact on Capitol Hill and with the Administration.

Transparency is critical for maintaining a strong patent system. Crowdsourcing and preissuance third-party submissions will allow for a more thorough examination and review process. The result will be higher quality patents and less long-term litigation – a huge overall benefit for all parties involved in the patent process.

WIPP thanks the USPTO for opening comments on this important issue and considering our remarks. As patents are discussed in the Administration, Congress, and federal regulatory bodies, we must continue to support a more open, transparent process for all types of patents, such as design, and not limit reforms to utility patents only. Crowdsourcing and preissuance third-party submissions are an important component of patent reform in the U.S.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Barbara Kasoff'.

Barbara Kasoff  
President, Women Impacting Public Policy