

July 9, 2014

The Honorable Lee Terry  
Chairman  
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
Ranking Member  
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The university associations listed above write in support of the July 7 draft of the Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters Act of 2014. While we have modest improvements to suggest over the course of the legislative process, we feel action now is important and are pleased that the Subcommittee is moving expeditiously to markup.

Over the past several months, the Members and staff of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade made concerted efforts to engage a diverse group of stakeholders in the development of a meaningful, balanced bill that will address the abusive demand letters that small businesses and retail interests face. By distinguishing between legitimate patent communications made in good faith and abusive mass mailings of demand letters, the approach taken in the Chairman's mark appropriately targets abusive behavior while maintaining the integrity of legitimate patent enforcement activity. We deeply appreciate the time and effort you and your staffs have put into this legislation.

Patent rights have kept American inventors competitive internationally since the founding of our country, and they create countless jobs and significant prosperity for our nation. It is our belief that the future of the US economy and our ability to compete successfully in the global economy is dependent on Congress fostering a strong patent system that incentivizes innovators to invent. We commend Members for their efforts to combat abusive demand letters and look forward to continuing to work with you in support of this legislation.