OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

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November 12, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-Elect
Washington, DC 20001

Leadership of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

Congratulations on your election. As you work through the transition, we urge you to give consideration to our views on the required qualifications for the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Together, we are 20 companies from across a broad economic spectrum. We invest tens of billions of dollars annually in research and development activities. These activities result in innovative products, made by American workers, that improve and enhance the lives of people. To further foster and protect American innovation, we believe that it is crucial to transform the USPTO, and we further believe that the major contributor to this goal is the person selected to run the organization. This transformation involves substantially improving the operations, particularly the patent operations, of the USPTO, a complex management challenge involving an agency with a budget of nearly $2 billion and over 8,000 employees. In our view, the next Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO should have the following qualifications:

- Twenty (20) or more years of experience as a practicing/managing patent attorney
- At least 10 years of experience managing a business or division within a business
- The ability to effectively and diplomatically represent US interests in international negotiations with our key trading partners
- The ability to effectively work within the legislative process with both Congress and the Executive branches
- Experience in building consensus and fostering cooperation amongst the major patent interest groups such as AIPLA, the IPO and the ABA
- The vision and talent to improve the operations and work-product of the USPTO

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Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter. We collectively stand ready to assist in any way.

Sincerely,

3M Company
Air Liquide
Air Products and Chemicals, Incorporated
Beckman Coulter, Incorporated
BP America Incorporated
Cargill, Incorporated
Cephalon, Incorporated
Corning, Incorporated
Dow Chemical Company
DuPont
Eli Lilly and Company
General Electric Company
Genzyme Corporation
Johnson & Johnson
Patent Café.com, Incorporated
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