



Licensing Executives Society

(U.S.A. and Canada), Inc.

A Member Society of the Licensing Executives Society International

Licensing Executives Society Applauds Introduction of the STRONGER Patents Act of 2019

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The Licensing Executives Society, (USA and Canada), Inc. (LES) commends Senator Coons, Representative Stivers and other co-sponsors for reintroducing the bipartisan STRONGER Patents Act of 2019 in the Senate and the House of Representatives. We commend these members of Congress for their leadership, and for their collaborative spirit in securing co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle in both houses of Congress. If enacted, this legislation will strengthen the U.S. patent system, reduce abuse, and ameliorate many of the unintended consequences that have crept into the U.S. patent system since the passage of the America Invents Act (AIA), and as a result of a series of unfortunate court decisions. With the STRONGER Patents Act of 2019, Congress will re-affirm innovation and intellectual property rights as pillars of the American economy, and will regain its proper role in setting prudent IP policy.

The American inventor is the embodiment of the pioneering spirit that made the U.S. economy the envy of the world. Our innovative spirit has been fueled by a patent system conferring a valuable property right on inventors – the right to exclude others from exploiting the inventor’s creation. Without that property right, innovation withers, investment declines, and economic activity is diminished. By increasing the strength and durability of U.S. patents, inventors more actively create, the public enjoys those creations, and new industries flourish. LES is committed to working with Congress and the executive branch on initiatives to further improve the U.S. patent system, including industry self-regulation to build consensus and to promote prudent IP practices (LES Standards Initiative, <https://www.lesusacanada.org/page/lesstandards>). Over the past several years, the U.S. patent system has lost its place as the perennial world leader in value, reliability, and durability. (<https://www.theglobalipcenter.com/u-s-chamber-releases-2019-international-ip-index/>). We need to reverse that trend. The STRONGER Patents Act of 2019 is an important step in that direction.