



The Honorable Andrei Iancu, Co-Chair  
The Honorable David Kappos, Co-Chair  
Judge Paul Michel (Ret.), Board Member  
Judge Kathleen O'Malley (Ret.), Board Member  
The Honorable Gary Locke, Board Member  
The Honorable Lamar Smith, Board Member  
Frank Cullen, Executive Director

October 21, 2025

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Subcommittee  
on Intellectual Property  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Subcommittee  
on Intellectual Property  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Subcommittee  
on Courts, Intellectual Property,  
Artificial Intelligence, and  
the Internet  
2138 Rayburn House Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Subcommittee  
on Courts, Intellectual Property,  
Artificial Intelligence, and  
the Internet  
2138 Rayburn House Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**SUBJECT: Designate October as National Intellectual Property Month to  
Boost American Innovation and Competitiveness**

Dear Chairmen Tillis and Issa and Ranking Members Schiff and Johnson:

On behalf of the Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP), I write to support recent efforts by States to recognize October as Intellectual Property Month, and to urge Congress to introduce and pass legislation declaring October as National Intellectual Property Month.

C4IP is a bipartisan coalition dedicated to promoting strong and effective intellectual property rights that drive innovation, boost economic competitiveness, and improve lives everywhere. C4IP is chaired by two former directors of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Andrei Iancu and David Kappos, who served under Presidents Trump and Obama, respectively. Our board also includes two retired judges from the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, former Chief Judge Paul Michel and Judge Kathleen O'Malley. Our board also includes two distinguished public servants: Lamar Smith, former U.S. Representative for Texas's 21st congressional district and Chairman of the full body of this Committee, and Gary Locke, former Governor of Washington, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and U.S. Ambassador to China under President Obama.

Innovation is key to keeping the United States at the global forefront of economic competitiveness and national security. IP protection is critical to translating innovative concepts into real-world solutions.

Intellectual property contributes \$7.8 trillion annually to U.S. gross domestic product and supports 63 million jobs.<sup>1</sup> IP's impact is especially significant for small businesses and startups, which see 76% more venture capital funding and 55% higher employee growth over five years when their ideas are protected.<sup>2</sup>

To recognize IP's essential role in driving innovation and economic growth, C4IP supports a growing movement aimed at designating October as National Intellectual Property Month. This national effort is bolstered by strong state-level consensus, with approximately thirty (30) states and the District of Columbia filing proclamations recognizing October as Intellectual Property Month. This includes last month's adoption of the proclamation in the largest innovation economy in the U.S., California, which explicitly recognizes the crucial role IP plays in advancing the state to become the fourth largest economy in the world and in fostering a vibrant ecosystem of entrepreneurs, startups, and researchers.<sup>3</sup>

Yet research shows that there are apparent gaps in awareness and utilization of the IP system—for example, there are clear geographic disparities across the country where patents are obtained, which markedly increase the likelihood that children raised in those areas will become inventors themselves.<sup>4</sup> This, along with a body of additional research, suggests the United States is not fully educating potential innovators on how to leverage intellectual property to develop their ideas and creations.

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<sup>1</sup> ANDREW A. TOOLE, RICHARD D. MILLER & NICHOLAS RADA, U.S. PAT. & TRADEMARK OFF., INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE U.S. ECONOMY: THIRD EDITION 3, 5 (2022), <https://www.uspto.gov/ip-policy/economic-research/intellectual-property-and-us-economy>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. PAT. & TRADEMARK OFF., *USPTO Marks IP Month With Expanded Tools for Entrepreneurs and Startups* (Oct. 24, 2024), <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/uspto-marks-ip-month-expanded-tools-entrepreneurs-and-startups>.

<sup>3</sup> Cal. Assemb. Con. Res. 113, 2025 Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2025), <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/ACR113/2025>.

<sup>4</sup> NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, INVENTION, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER, AND INNOVATION 19 (2022), <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsb20224/>.

Declaring October as National Intellectual Property Month would provide a vital, coordinated opportunity to:

- Elevate public understanding of the U.S. intellectual property system and how it drives innovation, bolsters national security, attracts investment, and supports millions of American jobs.
- Inspire and empower a new generation of inventors, entrepreneurs, and creators by promoting accessible, widespread knowledge of how to protect and commercialize their ideas.
- Safeguard consumers and defend legitimate businesses by spotlighting how intellectual property helps combat the growing threat of counterfeit and dangerous goods.

We strongly encourage Congress to introduce and pass legislation declaring October as National Intellectual Property Month. Thank you for considering this request and for your commitment to securing America's future through innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Cullen", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Frank Cullen  
Executive Director  
Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP)