



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

June 24, 2026

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP), I am writing to express our support for the nomination of Peter-Anthony Pappas to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission. Mr. Pappas' patent expertise and public service experience make him well-qualified for the position and an asset to the USITC.

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 further includes two retired judges from the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, former Chief Judge Paul Michel and Judge Kathleen O'Malley. It also features two distinguished public servants: Lamar Smith, former U.S. Representative for Texas's 21st congressional district and Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Gary Locke, former Governor of Washington, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and U.S. Ambassador to China under President Obama.

The USITC plays a vital role in enforcing U.S. trade laws, delivering independent analysis on international commerce, maintaining the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, and resolving intellectual property and trade disputes. Businesses, policymakers, and consumers alike depend on the Commission to carry out these responsibilities impartially and effectively. Ensuring that the USITC has a full complement of Senate-confirmed commissioners will help preserve its ability to fulfill its statutory responsibilities and support U.S. economic competitiveness. Given the Commission's significant role in enforcing intellectual property, commissioners with substantial intellectual property expertise can provide valuable insight and strengthen the agency's ability to protect American innovation. Mr. Pappas's experience would therefore be an asset to the Commission as it carries out its mission and advances U.S. interests in the global marketplace.

We feel that, if confirmed, Mr. Pappas will faithfully uphold the USITC's mission. His experience at the USPTO -- as a Patent Examiner, Primary Patent Examiner, Supervisory Patent Examiner, Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) Branch Chief Detailee, Special Advisor Detailee to Andrei Iancu, then-Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and subsequently as a Professional Staff Member Detailee to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and then Director of Intellectual Property Policy for U.S. Senator Thom Tillis -- has given him valuable technical expertise. Mr. Pappas also recognizes the value of impartial, data-driven research when crafting policy.

We respectfully urge the Committee to move forward with his confirmation at the earliest opportunity. C4IP stands ready to provide any additional information or support that may be helpful during the confirmation process.

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)

cc:

- Sen. John Barrasso, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Michael Bennet, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Maria Cantwell, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Bill Cassidy, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. John Cornyn, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Steve Daines, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Chuck Grassley, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Maggie Hassan, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Ron Johnson, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. James Lankford, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Ben Ray Luján, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Roger Marshall, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
- Sen. Bernard Sanders, Member, Senate Committee on Finance

Sen. Tim Scott, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Tina Smith, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. John Thune, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Thom Tillis, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Mark Warner, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Raphael Warnock, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Peter Welch, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Member, Senate Committee on Finance
Sen. Todd Young, Member, Senate Committee on Finance