

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Thank you for your leadership to ensure the Iowa innovation economy thrives. The undersigned represent Iowa inventors, startups, universities, accelerators, and intellectual property (IP) professionals. We write in strong support of three bipartisan patent bills that will strengthen the Iowa innovation economy: the PREVAIL Act ([S.1553/H.R.3160](#)), the Patent Eligibility Restoration Act ([S.1546/H.R.3152](#)), and the RESTORE Patent Rights Act ([S.708/H.R.1574](#)).

Strong, predictable patent rights are crucial to the Iowa economy. Iowa holds \$24.7 billion in IP,¹ and, according to the USPTO, IP-intensive industries support more than 30% of private-sector Iowa jobs.² Iowans have invented and patented thousands of new technologies in recent years, including cutting-edge innovations in agriculture and healthcare. In fact, Iowans regularly obtain more than 1,000 patents each year.³ These patent-protected inventions help create new jobs and attract hundreds of millions of dollars in federal government grants and venture capital investment to the state.⁴

Together, the PREVAIL, Patent Eligibility Restoration, and RESTORE Patent Rights Acts will catalyze continued innovation, job creation, and economic growth in Iowa. By providing inventors greater clarity and certainty around their ability to obtain and enforce patents, these bills would ensure that inventors may confidently invest in the research and development needed to invent new technologies and power the Iowa innovation economy.

We believe it is imperative that Congress act on these bills now:

- **RESTORE**—For more than two centuries, a patent owner whose rights had been infringed could obtain a court order to stop continued IP theft. Injunctions were granted in almost 95% of cases where patents were found valid and infringed, but Iowa inventors

¹ U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Center, *From Innovation to Employment: IP's Role in Job Growth* (accessed Oct. 16, 2025), https://www.uschamber.com/assets/documents/maps/ipjobs/IPFactSheet_Iowa.pdf.

² Andrew A. Toole, Richard D. Miller & Nicholas Rada, *Intellectual Property and the U.S. Economy: Third Edition*, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Mar. 2022), <https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/uspto-ip-us-economy-third-edition.pdf>, at 20.

³ U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, *Performance and Accountability Report: Fiscal Year 2021*, <https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USPTOFY21PAR.pdf>, at 208.

⁴ See, e.g., Letter from Mark J. Braun, Iowa Board of Regents, to Iowa General Assembly (Nov. 11, 2024), <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DF/1463244.pdf>.

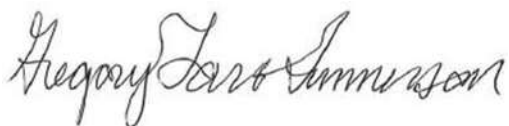
lost that protection in 2006.⁵ RESTORE would help Iowa inventors by reviving this right and stopping IP theft.

- **PREVAIL**—When Congress established the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) as part of the 2011 America Invents Act, it intended to create a cost-effective alternative to federal court for patent challenges. However, large technology companies have instead exploited the PTAB since its inception, using it as an additional opportunity to attack patents of smaller competitors. PREVAIL would make commonsense changes to reduce PTAB abuse and return the tribunal to its core purpose. For example, PREVAIL would align the standard of proof for invalidating patents in the PTAB with the standard in federal court.
- **PERA**—The law is not clear on the rules around what technologies are eligible to be considered for a patent, especially in bioscience—a sector crucial to the Iowa economy. Uncertainty about patent eligibility discourages new innovation. PERA would clarify this area of patent law and provide Iowa inventors the certainty they need to confidently invest in new innovation.

Passing RESTORE, PREVAIL, and PERA will allow Iowa inventors to spend less time and resources in the courtroom protecting their inventions and more time and investment in the lab developing the next bioscience breakthrough.

We urge you to support these bills and to advance them through the Senate Judiciary Committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Gregory Lars Gunnerson, President, Iowa Intellectual Property Law Association



Jessica Hyland, Executive Director, Iowa Biotechnology Association



Marie Kerbeshian, Assistant Vice President and Executive Director, University of Iowa Research Foundation

⁵ Kristina M.L. Acri Née Lybecker, *Injunctive Relief in Patent Cases: the Impact of eBay* (Colo. Coll., Working Paper No. 2024-01, 2024), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4866108.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Nebel". The script is fluid and cursive.

Heidi Nebel, Partner, McKee, Voorhees & Sease, P.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Register III". The signature is more stylized and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James C. Register III, PhD, Interim President & CEO, BioConnect Iowa