

March 14, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing to offer the support of Conversant for your bill, the “Patent Fee Integrity Act.” This important measure promotes the interests of inventors and innovation by safeguarding user fees paid to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and preventing the continued withholding or diversion of such funds.

Conversant is a company of patent licensing professionals and innovators offering intellectual property management services. We believe that strong, reasonable and ethical licensing of high-quality patents is healthy for knowledge-based economies. Intellectual property enables innovation—it does not stifle it. And patents exist to encourage, reward and protect the inventions that improve our lives. Accordingly, a strong and properly functioning USPTO is vital to the interests of Conversant, our partners, and all inventors.

Despite years of Congressional debate and discussion about the importance of a fully-funded USPTO, the agency still has neither full funding nor access to all of the user fees it collects. The “Patent Fee Integrity Act” would end fee diversion, thereby enabling the USPTO to improve patent quality and support in interests of inventors. It would do all of this without adding to the deficit. We applaud you for your leadership in introducing the measure and strongly support passage thereof.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Burt  
Senior Vice President and Chief Intellectual Property Officer  
Conversant Intellectual Property Management Corp.