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July 23, 2014

*Heidi Jacobus
Robert Schmidt
Co-Chairmen*

**President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500**

*Jere Glover
Executive Director*

*Larry Nannis
Treasurer*

Dear Mr President,

*Kevin Burns
Greg Zacharias
New England
Regional Chairs*

The Small Business Technology Council (SBTC) would like to express our strong support for Phil Johnson to lead the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). We believe Mr. Johnson will bring a balanced, knowledgeable, and reasoned approach toward management of this vital government institution.

*Matt Oristano
Joseph Schwartz
Mid-Atlantic
Regional Chair*

The SBTC is the high technology council of the National Small Business Association, the nation's longest running small-business advocacy organization. We are a staunchly nonpartisan, member-driven organization dedicated to promoting America's high-tech, innovative companies, including the 5000 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) companies that produce a quarter of the nation's most valuable patents, as recognized by R&D 100 awards.

*Ash Thakker
Southeast
Regional Chair*

*Mary Delahunty
Southwest
Regional Chair*

We take issue with published reports that Mr. Johnson lacks support from the technology industry. We do not believe the technology industry is represented by a few, large, highly-visible companies, but by the thousands of small businesses creating advanced technologies for medical, scientific, industrial, and defense applications.

*Russ Farmer
Mountain
Regional Chair*

*Michael Browne
Pacific
Regional Chair*

The SBTC fully supported Mr. Johnson's opposition to the patent reform bill sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.). While we fully support efforts to eliminate patent trolls and others who abuse the system, Mr. Johnson recognized that the proposed reforms would not only be devastating for small businesses that depend on the patent system to protect their technologies and their very existence, but for the American economy as well. We were gratified that this issue was finally recognized by major technology companies, such as Microsoft and Apple, and that the legislation was shelved from lack of support.

*Roy Keller
State Liaison*

*Greg Zacharias
DOD Committee
Chair*

*Paul Donovan
Michael Squillante
NIH Committee
Co-Chairs*

We believe that Mr. Johnson's position on patent trolls is consistent with the Administration's desire to address this issue without adversely impacting legitimate innovation. We're confident that Mr. Johnson will pursue a more focused solution that protects the needs of small businesses. This is consistent with the Administration's position to reform the patent system and support small business innovation.

*Ash Thakker
Phase III Committee
Chair*

*Russ Farmer
DCAA Committee
Chair*



Mr. Johnson will bring a fair, balanced, and reasoned approach for patent reforms that will eliminate abuse while protecting those who depend on the USPTO to protect their technology. This will be instrumental in advancing U.S. technological development. His endorsement from both large and small businesses demonstrates his broad industrial support.

We urge you to support Mr. Johnson's appointment to this critical position. We are confident he will provide strong leadership that will advance U.S. technology and protect the thousands of small businesses we assist.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jere W. Glover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "e" at the end.

Jere W. Glover
Executive Director
Small Business Technology Council

cc: Katherine Archuleta, US Office of Personnel Management