



The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 28, 2014

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write on behalf of the membership of Engine Advocacy in strong support of President Obama's nomination of Michelle K. Lee to be the next Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Engine represents more 500 startups and small businesses across the country. Because startups are key drivers of innovation, our members have a keen interest in ensuring that the IP system continues to promote innovation by improving patent quality while ensuring a level playing field for all inventors. As the President's principal advisor on intellectual property policy, the Director of the USPTO plays a central role in the development and implementation of these policies and in ensuring the efficient operation of the Agency. We strongly support Michelle Lee's nomination to this critical post. As a lawyer in private practice and in public service, including her time overseeing the opening of the Silicon Valley Patent Office, Michelle has proven time and again she is up to the challenge.

We believe that Michelle has demonstrated strong leadership since assuming the position of Deputy Director earlier this year, and that she has advanced a balanced and thoughtful view of IP policy. We particularly commend the significant steps she has taken to improve patent quality, and have been encouraged to see outreach from the Office to the startup and small business community, including providing useful resources such as those found at: <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/litigation/index.jsp>. We also applaud efforts to install the Office's first female Director.

We urge the Committee to report this nomination and the full Senate for speedy consideration so that the USPTO can have the effective and steady leadership that it needs to perform its critical mission.

Sincerely,

Julie P. Samuels  
Executive Director, Engine