

**THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY PATENT REFORM**  
*Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness*

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**Statement on David Kappos' Confirmation as Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office**

**Washington, D.C.** – Gary Griswold, Chairman of The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, released the following statement after David Kappos was confirmed by the U.S. Senate today to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office. President Obama nominated him in mid-June.

“I firmly believe that Dave Kappos will lead the US Patent and Trademark Office in a very thoughtful and effective way. His confirmation today is welcome news for members of our Coalition and all innovators, researchers and manufacturers. He will be an advocate for the innovative community and the protection of the nation’s patents and advancements.

“I have confidence that Dave will work hard to improve the operations of the PTO, secure adequate resources for the agency, and permanently end fee diversion. His confirmation will be important to the continued progress of S. 515, the Patent Reform Act of 2009. As the patent reform bill proceeds through the legislative process, Dave will be able to ensure a smooth transition and implementation of the legislation in the PTO.

“For many years, our Coalition’s members have worked with him on intellectual property issues. He is a proven leader who fully understands the practical aspects of and opportunities provided by the patent system. We look forward to continuing this excellent relationship, and congratulate him today on his confirmation.”

The coalition has 50 members from 18 diverse industry sectors and includes many of the nation’s leading manufacturers and researchers. The coalition’s steering committee includes 3M, Caterpillar, General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, Eli Lilly and Procter & Gamble. The coalition has members in a variety of industry sectors including: Aerospace and Defense, Chemical, Computers, Diversified Financials, Diversified Technology, Energy, Food Production, Forest & Paper Products, Health Care, Household & Personal Products, Industrial Equipment, Medical Equipment & Devices, Network & Communications, Payroll Services, Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, Semiconductors & Electronic Components, and Transportation Equipment.

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