

# UNITED *for* PATENT REFORM

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Flake  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Lee  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Flake, Gardner and Lee:

On behalf of United for Patent Reform, we are writing today to express our appreciation for your introduction of S. 2733, the Venue Equity and Non-Uniformity Elimination Act of 2016. Reforms like those included in this legislation are critical to the overall effort to stop patent litigation abuse, and our coalition looks forward to working with you to strengthen the legislation to ensure all industries are able to benefit from the reforms.

The need for venue reform is clear. Last year, nearly half of all new patent infringement cases filed in the United States were filed in one judicial district. The high volume of cases filed in this district is not a coincidence. Patent Assertion Entities, otherwise known as patent trolls, take advantage of broad interpretations of current law that allow them to file their lawsuits where local rules and practices, along with physical distance, make it very expensive for companies to defend themselves.

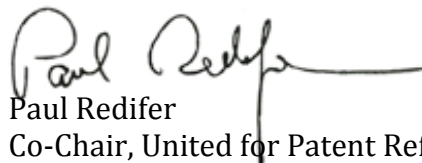
Like vague demand letters and expensive discovery, venue shopping is another way trolls manipulate the current rules to shakedown legitimate businesses and force unwarranted settlements. Common-sense venue reform will help level the playing field. It will narrow the judicial districts that have jurisdiction over patent infringement suits to only those districts that have a material connection to the alleged infringement.

While federal courts have recently heard a number of cases relating to venue, the truth is only Congress can solve this problem. We thank you forward your leadership and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Beth Provenzano  
Co-Chair, United for Patent Reform  
Vice President, Government Relations  
National Retail Federation



Paul Redifer  
Co-Chair, United for Patent Reform  
Director Government Affairs  
Cisco