

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Flake
United States Senator
413 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senator
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
United States Senator
361 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Flake, Senator Gardner and Senator Lee:

The undersigned companies and organizations write to express our support for the Venue Equity and Non-Uniformity Elimination Act of 2016 (S. 2733). We appreciate your leadership on this issue.

The Venue Equity and Non-Uniformity Elimination Act will provide necessary reform to address the significant problem of forum shopping in patent litigation cases. Your legislation recognizes that patent cases should be brought in federal courts with a reasonable connection to the dispute.

The ability to pick favorable venues otherwise unrelated to the alleged infringement has fueled abuses, particularly by non-practicing entities. Under the current interpretation of the venue statute, patent defendants can be sued anywhere they offer a product for sale. It is unduly burdensome to require defendants to litigate in courts with no meaningful connection to the patent dispute. Your bill treats both plaintiffs and defendants fairly and equally by requiring a substantive connection to the venue on the part of at least one party.

The Venue Equity and Non-Uniformity Elimination Act will return basic fairness, rationality and balance to patent venue law. It is imperative that Congress address venue reform. We are proud to support it.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Application Developers Alliance
Association of Global Automakers
Comcast NBCUniversal
DISH
EMC
Engine
Intel
Main Sequence Technology Inc.
MediaFire
Medtronic
Micron
National Association of Convenience Stores
Newegg
Retail Industry Leaders Association
VMware