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The Honorable Lee Terry
Chairman
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

July 9, 2014

Dear Chairman Terry and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

The Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA) writes in support of the Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act of 2014. This legislation appropriately targets abusive demand letters sent by “patent trolls” while protecting the constitutionally guaranteed rights of legitimate patent holders.

MDMA represents hundreds of innovative and entrepreneurial medical technology companies and venture capital firms. Our members rely upon a strong and robust patent system to attract the capital needed to invest in and commercialize new technologies to cure and treat the most debilitating diseases and medical conditions. Any changes to the patent system that would devalue property rights or reduce the penalties for infringement will have a chilling effect on developing the medical treatments of tomorrow. We support the TROL Act because it protects businesses and consumers from deceptive demand letters, maintains the integrity of the U.S. patent system, and establishes a strong federal regime for enforcement.

We commend the Committee for the balanced and careful approach it took in developing this legislation and look forward to working with you as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Leahey
President & CEO, MDMA