

Senator Tillis Questions for the Record – Protecting Real Innovations by Improving Patent Quality

Ms. Bridget Asay:

1. How would you define or describe a low quality patent?
2. What are the biggest problems that you see posed by low quality patents?
3. What initiatives in this area have been particularly successful, in your perspective?
4. How can the USPTO improve collaboration on prior art searching—both domestically (e.g. between USPTO and the FDA) and internationally (e.g. among the IP5)?
5. Are there any particular data points or metrics that could help prioritize discussions about improving patent quality? What agencies or other organizations could contribute to collecting such data?
6. In the hearing, you mentioned the National Association of Attorneys General playing a consumer protection role to combat bad actors asserting low quality patents. Could you please elaborate on that?
7. What technological improvements should the USPTO focus on to improve prior art searching?