

Statement Of

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**“Perspectives on Patents”
before the
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Committee On The Judiciary
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Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Leahy, and Members of the Subcommittee: My name is Joel Poppen and I am the Deputy General Counsel for Micron Technology, Inc. Thank you for allowing me to testify today on the very important topic of patent reform.

The discussion about patent reform, and indeed most of the testimony that will be presented to this Subcommittee today, focuses on a two general areas – improving the quality of patents issued by the Patent and Trademark Office and redressing problems in patent litigation. While Micron generally supports reforms that will lead to the highest quality of patents possible, my testimony today primarily will focus on patent litigation issues that we believe threaten the viability of innovative manufacturers, and ultimately the patent system itself, if not properly addressed through legislation.

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Micron is a significant stakeholder in the patent system and, accordingly, has a keen interest in its improvement. Micron is one of the world's leading providers of advanced semiconductor solutions. Micron's DRAM and Flash memory components are used in today's most advanced computing, networking, and communications products, including computers, workstations, servers, cell phones, wireless devices, digital cameras, and gaming systems. Micron also provides CMOS image sensor solutions to the handset camera, digital still camera, and PC video camera markets. Micron is driven by an unwavering commitment to be the most efficient and innovative global provider of semiconductor solutions.

Micron's investment in research and development, and the company's focus on innovation, has led to a portfolio of over 12,000 U.S. patents. For the past five years, Micron has been among the top ten recipients of U.S. patents. In 2004, Micron was awarded 1761 U.S. patents. For the last three years, MIT's *Technology Review* has ranked Micron's portfolio as number one in technological strength among the semiconductor industry.

