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Feds should speed patents, spur R&D

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Last week, Congress took a small but important step in helping to stimulate the economy, particularly the technology sector. But there is more work to be done, and it is neither difficult nor painful work. Silicon Valley needs it.

The House and Senate last week approved President Obama's request to allocate \$129 million to the [U.S. Patent and Trademark Office](#). In requesting the money, the president said it "would support efforts to reduce backlogs in processing patent applications — by reforming USPTO operations to make them more effective."

While Congress made the right decision in approving the allocation, it can go even farther to help spur innovation. Here are two of the most vital steps Congress can take to help Silicon Valley:

- Make the Obama allocation permanent by allowing the USPTO to spend all of the revenue it generates through its fees.

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