## Dear USPTO Staff,

I am George W. Burkhardt, an inventor and officer at ALAMO INVENTORS in SAN ANTONIO, TX. Our group is a member of the umbrella group IGA (Inventors Groups Of America) which supports stronger patent rights. I have 8 U.S. patents and one pending.

I am writing in support of proposed changes by the USPTO to the claim construction standard for interpreting claims in trial proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. The proposed changes should ensure consistency in claim construction between the Patent Trial and Appeal Board and the proceedings in district court or at the International Trade Commission. The Patent Trial and Appeals Board should therefore, use the Phillips claim construction standard which is the same standard applied in Article III courts/

I feel this is very important to implement a fair and balanced approach, while providing greater predictability and certainty in the patent system. This will help patent holders trying to secure funding from investors. It must be clear to the investor that there is a predictable outcome, or they will place their investment elsewhere. This country was built by small inventors and the playing field must be level or innovation will be shuttered, as will our economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

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