This proposed rule is unwise and will do great harm to independent inventors, university technology licensing organizations, small entity inventors and overall U.S. development.

The majority of foreign patent offices are integral parts of their national industrial development efforts and serve as collectors of information about US technologies.

Acquiring US technologies at any early stage is a major focus of the economic espionage efforts of many nations including those in Europe and Asia.

Permitting these foreign governments to have access to unpublished patent applications will significantly undermine US inventors and US innovation.

This is an ill-conceived proposal that merits Congressional examination as to how this could even be considered.

Pat Choate
Author of Hot Property: The Stealing of Ideas in an Age of Globalization (Knopf, 2005)