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[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Company]

[Street Address, City, State ZIP]

May 14, 2026

[Opposing Counsel Name]

[Firm Name]

[Address]

**Re: U.S. Patent No. 11633006 — Response to Assertion of Infringement**

Dear Counsel,

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence asserting infringement of U.S. Patent No. 11633006 (the "11633006 Patent"). After preliminary review, we have substantial concerns about the validity, enforceability, and scope of the asserted claims, summarized below. We reserve all rights and defenses.

## **1. Subject Patent — Summary**

An analysis of U.S. Patent 11,633,006 reveals the following:

Title: Rapid-entry footwear having a stabilizer and an elastic element.

Assignee: FAST IP, LLC

Inventors: Michael Pratt, Craig Cheney.

Filing Date: October 13, 2022.

Issue Date: April 25, 2023.

Abstract: The patent describes a rapid-entry shoe designed with an elastic element to enlarge the foot opening for easy insertion, and a stabilizer to prevent the rear portion of the shoe from collapsing.

Litigation

This patent is the subject of ongoing litigation. In July 2025, HandsFree Labs Licensing, LLC, FAST IP, LLC, and Kizik Design, LLC filed a patent infringement lawsuit against Skechers U.S.A., Inc. in the U.S. District...

## **2. Validity Concerns under 35 U.S.C. § 102 — Prior Art**

We have identified prior-art references that, in our preliminary view, anticipate one or more asserted claims of the 11633006 Patent:

## Prior Art Analysis for U.S. Patent 11,633,006

This analysis examines the prior art cited during the prosecution of U.S. Patent 11,633,006 ("the '006 patent"). Each reference is evaluated for its potential to anticipate the claims of the '006 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 102. The analysis is based on the information available as of today's date, April 30, 2026.

### Cited Prior Art References

The following patents and patent applications were cited by the examiner during the prosecution of the '006 patent.

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#### 1. U.S. Patent No. 11,191,320 B2 ("Hedgepeth '320")

- Full Citation: US 11,191,320 B2, "Footwear with vertically extended heel counter," filed by Nike, Inc.
- Filing Date: December 28, 2018
- Publication Date: December 7, 2021
- Brief Description: The Hedgepeth '320 patent describes a shoe with a heel counter that extends upward from the sole. This counter is designed to be semi-rigid and has a curved or "scooped" upper portion that functions as a shoehorn, guiding the user's foot into the shoe. The design is intended to prevent the heel portion of the shoe from collapsing when...

### 3. Obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent of § 102, we believe the asserted claims are obvious in view of combinations of prior art that a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine:

Based on the provided prior art, here is an analysis of the obviousness of the claims in U.S. Patent No. 11,633,006 ("the '006 patent") under 35 U.S.C. § 103. This analysis assumes a Person Having Ordinary Skill in the Art (PHOSITA) would be an individual with experience in footwear design and engineering.

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#### Analysis of Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 is likely obvious over a combination of U.S. Patent No. 11,191,320 B2 ("Hedgepeth '320") and U.S. Patent No. 8,516,721 B2 ("Donnadieu '721").

A PHOSITA would have been motivated to combine these references to create a more effective and comfortable hands-free shoe, with a reasonable expectation of success.

#### 1. Base Invention: Hedgepeth '320

Hedgepeth '320 discloses the foundational elements of the stabilizer described in claim 1. It teaches a shoe with a vertically extended, semi-rigid heel counter that prevents the rear portion from collapsing during foot insertion. This counter also includes a "scooped" or flared upper portion that functions as a built-in shoehorn to guide the foot. This directly addresses the core problem of...

### 4. Litigation History of the Patent

Public records reflect that the 11633006 Patent has been the subject of the following litigation, which informs our view of the asserted claims and your client's enforcement posture:

- Fast IP, LLC et al. v. Skechers U.S.A., Inc. — 2:25-cv-00744 · U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas · active

## 5. Request

In light of the foregoing, we request that your client (i) provide a detailed claim chart identifying each accused product or service and mapping every limitation of each asserted claim, (ii) identify any prior art known to your client, including any references cited during prosecution or reexamination, and (iii) substantiate the basis for any damages or licensing demand. We are prepared to discuss the matter further once we have received and reviewed the foregoing.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

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