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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. 12359506 — Response to Assertion of Infringement

Dear Counsel,

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence asserting infringement of U.S. Patent No. 12359506 (the "12359506 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

A concise summary of US Patent 12359506 is as follows:

Title: Multifunction button for ladder adjustment

Assignee: Little Giant Ladder Systems LLC

Inventors: B. Scott Maxfield, N. Ryan Moss

Filing Date: October 19, 2023

Issue Date: July 15, 2025

Abstract:

Ladders have first and second assemblies with pairs of rails that form a pair of hinges rotatable about a pivot axis. The hinges include at least one retainer movable between axial positions along the pivot axis. The at least one retainer includes a body and a support arm coupled with the body. The arm can be pivotable relative to the body between a deployed position and a collapsed position. The support arm can support objects while...

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 12359506 Patent:

Analysis of Most Relevant Prior Art for US Patent 12359506

As of today's date, May 1, 2026, an analysis of the prior art cited during the prosecution of US Patent 12359506 reveals several key references. The core invention claimed in patent 12359506 is the integration of a tool or object holder directly into the hinge button assembly of an articulating ladder. This holder is specifically defined as a gap created between the main button body and a secondary, spaced-apart plate or body, designed to receive a hanging object or a tool's belt clip.

While many references were cited, the following four are identified as most relevant to the patentability of the independent claims (Claims 1 and 12). The analysis focuses on potential anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, which requires that every element of a claim be found in a single prior art reference.

1. US Patent 11,505,994 B2

- Full Citation: US Patent 11,505,994 B2, "Top cap for multi-position ladder". Assignee: Tricam Industries, Inc. (Note: Tricam is the petitioner in the pending Post-Grant Review PGR2026-00043 against...

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:

Analysis of Obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for US Patent 12359506

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103, a patent claim is unpatentable if the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art (a "POSITA"). This analysis considers whether a POSITA would have been motivated to combine the teachings of multiple prior art references to arrive at the claimed invention with a reasonable expectation of success.

The independent claims (1 and 12) of US patent 12359506 are likely obvious over a combination of prior art references. The core invention is the placement of a specific type of tool holder—one using a spaced-apart plate to create a gap for a clip—onto the hinge button assembly of an articulating ladder. The prior art establishes that both articulating ladders with hinge buttons and this specific tool-holding mechanism were well-known. A POSITA would have been motivated to combine these known elements to solve the known problem of...

4. Litigation History of the Patent

Public records reflect that the 12359506 Patent has been the subject of the following litigation, which informs our view of the asserted claims and your client's enforcement posture:

- Tricam Industries LLC v. Little Giant Ladder Systems LLC — PGR2026-00043 · Patent Trial and Appeal Board · filed 2026-04-14 · Pending

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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