

**John J. Castellani**  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



June 13, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Judiciary Committee  
B351 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Conyers:

On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1249, the "America Invents Act of 2011." This important bill demonstrates that the Committee appreciates the importance of intellectual property protection to the U.S. economy and to the jobs that it provides, especially in challenging economic times.

A strong patent system is crucial to American competitiveness as the country focuses on job growth and rebuilding. The incentives provided by patents help to spur the innovation that builds companies and creates jobs for Americans. As a trade association representing many of the country's largest innovators in the pharmaceutical research and biotechnology fields, we believe improvements to the patent system will help to maintain America's place at the forefront of innovation by providing the PTO with mechanisms and resources to grant high-quality, more-reliable patents. PhRMA members alone invested an estimated \$49.4 billion in 2010 in discovering and developing new medicines.

As a whole, the America Invents Act fairly balances the interests of stakeholders from numerous economic sectors and the interest of the public in this debate. We believe a Manager's Amendment will continue to improve the bill with respect to several critical issues. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with the Committee to ensure that the supplemental examination provisions can effectively work to improve patent quality. We look forward to working with you and other leaders in Congress to continue to improve the environment for innovation and job growth and to move this legislation forward. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Castellani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

cc: The Honorable Robert Goodlatte  
The Honorable Melvin Watt

*Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America*