



Partnership for New York City

June 21, 2011

The Honorable Joseph Crowley
U.S. House of Representatives
2404 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crowley:

The Partnership for New York City represents international business leaders and major employers who are dedicated to working with government, labor and the not-for-profit sectors to strengthen the economy of New York City and State. Partnership members employ 1.3 million people throughout New York State and contribute \$202 billion a year to the state GDP.

We are writing to urge your support for Section 18 of H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act of 2011, that addresses low-quality, easily obtained business method patents.

As an organization that promotes economic growth, we are concerned that the current procedure for awarding and reviewing business method patents is stifling innovation. Method patents are ambiguous and abstract, protecting not technology, but process. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of business method patent infringement claims. Businesses have been forced to spend countless dollars defending themselves against frivolous lawsuits—money that would better be used to support entrepreneurs and innovators and to create businesses and jobs.

To address this problem, H.R. 1249 contains an important section that gives the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) the tools they need - and have asked for - to properly and thoroughly review these patents. Section 18 would allow the PTO to re-examine business method patents for financial services products against appropriate and relevant evidence in order to insure that these patents are legitimate.

The provision in the House legislation mirrors what is included in the already-passed Senate bill championed by Senators Charles Schumer and Jon Kyl.

The Partnership urges that you support Section 18 of the bill and resist any efforts to weaken the provision.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Wylde
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