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June 29, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

We urge you to bring H.R. 1249 to the Senate floor as soon as the Senate's schedule permits.

The Business Software Alliance (BSA)* strongly supports modernizing our patent system. An efficient and well-operating patent system is necessary to promote healthy and dynamic innovation. Innovation is critically important to software and computer companies' ability to provide new and better tools and technologies to consumers and customers.

BSA member companies believe H.R. 1249 establishes a transparent and efficient patent system. It will make the Patent and Trademark Office more accessible and useful to all inventors, large and small. In addition, the provisions of H.R. 1249 on Patent and Trademark Office funding will ensure that the user fees paid to the USPTO will be available to the Office for processing patent applications and other important functions of the Office.

** The Business Software Alliance (www.bsa.org) is the world's foremost advocate for the software industry, working in 80 countries to expand software markets and create conditions for innovation and growth. Governments and industry partners look to BSA for thoughtful approaches to key policy and legal issues, recognizing that software plays a critical role in driving economic and social progress in all nations. BSA's member companies invest billions of dollars a year in local economies, good jobs, and next-generation solutions that will help people around the world be more productive, connected, and secure. BSA members include Adobe, Apple, Autodesk, AVEVA, AVG, Bentley Systems, CA Technologies, Cadence, CNC/Mastercam, Compuware, Corel, Dassault Systèmes SolidWorks Corporation, Dell, Intel, Intuit, Kaspersky Lab, McAfee, Microsoft, Minitab, PTC, Progress Software, Quark, Quest Software, Rosetta Stone, Siemens, Sybase, Symantec, and The MathWorks*

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H.R. 1249 and S. 23 are the products of many years of skillful and difficult legislative work in both the House and the Senate. H.R. 1249 represents a thoughtful and balanced compromise that is endorsed by virtually all stakeholders. We urge the Senate to adopt H.R. 1249 as acted upon by the House *and pass it without amendment* as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Holleyman,
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary