



June 30, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

Over 20 years ago, I founded Integrated DNA Technologies here in Coralville, Iowa, just a few miles from the University of Iowa campus. Since then, IDT has become a leader in the field of custom DNA synthesis; we now supply scientists around the world with the tools they need to study the genome. Five hundred Iowans work at IDT, and we're proud of the contributions IDT makes not only to science and innovation, but to the Iowa and national economies as well.

Like other companies working to make the promise of science a reality, IDT's continued success depends on a robust system of intellectual property protection in the United States. You and others have recognized the necessity of reform to that system through your support of the America Invents Act, which would help to ensure that the United States remains a global leader in technological innovation.

Grateful for your leadership in the past, I write today to encourage you to support adoption by the Senate of the America Invents Act as it was approved by the House of Representatives last week.

With H.R. 1249, the House has incorporated the most important provisions of the bill that the Senate adopted in May, thanks to your leadership. Both versions of the Act would improve patent quality, reduce patent litigation costs, and increase the resources available to the U.S. Patent Office so that it can fulfill its critical mission. IDT believes that the Congress should seize this historic opportunity and send the American Invents Act to the President for his signature this summer.

IDT would be happy to speak with you or with members of your staff about how the America Invents Act would help companies like ours create new technologies, new products, and new jobs for years to come. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

With best regards,

Dr. Joseph A. Walder
Founder & Chief Executive Officer

cc: Leader Reid
Leader McConnell
Members of the Senate

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