

April 5, 2011

Representative Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Subcommittee on
Intellectual Property, Competition and
Internet
B-352 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Smith and Goodlatte:

I write to support H.R. 1249, the *America Invents Act*. Your legislation takes an important step forward to ensure not only that high quality patents are issued by the US Patent and Trademark Office, but that it has the resources and tools it needs to complete its function. As an officer of a company dedicated to innovation and creativity, SAS is dependent on evolving and protecting its intellectual property. The patent system is one mechanism that we use to protect and enforce our rights and we are fully supportive of ensuring the best possible patent system.

SAS is pleased to support the patent quality reforms that are an inherent part of H.R. 1249. We also look forward to working with the Committee as it continues to resolve other litigation management issues, such as abusive lawsuits against multiple, unrelated defendants. While ensuring high quality patents is critical to American innovation, reforming lawsuit abuse is equally important to ensure that America's innovators can use their resources to innovate and create jobs.

Sincerely,



John Boswell
Senior Vice President and
Chief Legal Officer
SAS Institute Inc.

cc: Rep. John Conyers
Rep. Mel Watt