

June 29, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

We are writing to encourage you to bring H.R. 1249, the “Leahy-Smith America Invents Act,” to the Senate floor at your earliest possible convenience and send the bill to the President’s desk to be signed into law. H.R. 1249 closely mirrors the Senate bill that passed earlier this year by an overwhelming 95-5 vote.

Patent reform is essential legislation: enactment will spur innovation creating jobs and ensure that the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has the tools necessary to maintain our patent system as the best in the world. We strongly support the improved re-examination procedures in H.R. 1249, which will allow the experts at PTO to review low-quality business-method patents against the best prior art. Equally important, the bill provides the PTO with increased and predictable funding. This certainty is absolutely critical if the PTO is to properly allocate resources and hire and retain the expertise necessary to benefit the entire user-community.

This bill has been nearly a decade in the making and is supported by a vast cross-section of all types of inventors and businesses. It is time to send patent reform to the President for signature, and we strongly encourage the Senate to take up and pass H.R. 1249 without delay.

Sincerely,

American Bankers Association
American Council of Life Insurers
American Financial Services Association
American Insurance Association
The Clearing House Association
Consumer Bankers Association
Credit Union National Association
The Financial Services Roundtable
The Independent Community Bankers of America
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association

cc: Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley, Senate Judiciary Committee