

June 23, 2011

Dear Member of Congress:

Today, the House will consider landmark patent reform legislation. We strongly support H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act of 2011, legislation needed to ensure our patent system remains the best in the world. H.R. 1249 benefits the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) by supplying the patent office with increased and predictable funding and the tools needed to improve patent quality. We strongly support the improved re-examination procedures that will allow the experts at PTO to review low-quality business method patents against the best prior art.

Today, amendments will be offered that will, if adopted, eliminate the benefits provided by this bill. As such, we urge to you to support the Manager's Amendment and:

- Oppose the Schock-Waters-Boren Amendment to strike Section 18;
- Oppose the Manzullo Amendment to strike the agreement on fee-setting authority;
- Oppose the Rohrabacher Amendment to carve-out businesses from post-grant review; and
- Oppose the Sensenbrenner Amendment to strike the "First Inventor to File" provision.

It is essential the amendments above be defeated to realize the full promise of the bill. We encourage you to support the Manager's amendment and the bill on final passage and oppose any efforts to weaken the important improvements it will deliver.

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