

THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY PATENT REFORM

Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Patent Reform Act of 2009

Dear Leader Reid and Senator McConnell:

As you know, after six years of diligent work on patent reform legislation, a compromise has finally been reached. The compromise was offered by Chairman Leahy, Senator Specter, Senator Feinstein and other senators and was recently adopted in the Judiciary Committee. Our Coalition appreciates and recognizes the focus and hard work by senators and their staffs especially over the past several weeks that led to the reporting of the compromise bill. Accordingly, we write to respectfully request that you schedule S. 515 for consideration by the full Senate. As S. 515 proceeds to the floor, we will work with the members of the Judiciary Committee and with other members of Congress regarding technical amendments (such as more nuanced transition provisions) and certain other amendments which improve the bill, but which are faithful to the conceptual underpinnings of the agreed compromise. We believe these changes will facilitate the enactment of the legislation.

Our Coalition — consisting of 50 companies from more than 16 different industry sectors — believes this bill will set the nation on a course that will foster innovation and employment by ensuring the patent system is fair, balanced and promotes research and innovation.

S. 515, as ordered reported by the Judiciary Committee, represents a major breakthrough for the future of the American patent system. Passage and enactment of this bill will stimulate research and development, spur new American innovations, create American jobs, and help lead the United States out of the current economic crisis.

Sincerely,



Gary Griswold
Chairman, Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform

cc: The Honorable Patrick L. Leahy
The Honorable Arlen Specter