

THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY PATENT REFORM
Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness

July 25, 2007

The Honorable
The Speaker
Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
H-232 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, which represents many of the nation's leading companies in a wide variety of industries and technologies, we urge you to delay floor action on H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, while industry stakeholders continue to work through the myriad of issues that were not adequately resolved during last week's Committee markup.

The bill as reported contains provisions, including a significant change in the manner in which patent infringement damages are calculated, that would deter innovation by weakening the U.S. patent system. It also undermines the ability of our companies to compete in an increasingly global economy. Because of the bill's critical importance to our country's continued economic leadership in the world, we should take the time necessary to ensure that all of the public policy issues are discussed and worked through in a careful and deliberative fashion before asking the entire House to vote on the patent legislation.

Our Coalition welcomes efforts to improve the existing patent system and is committed to working with Congress and other stakeholders to strengthen the bill as reported. We ask you to provide us with the time necessary to accomplish that task by agreeing not to move this bill to the floor in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

3M	Dow Chemical Company	Northrop Grumman Corporation
Abbott	DuPont	Novartis
Air Liquide	Eastman Chemical Company	Patent Café.com, Inc.
Air Products	Electronics for Imaging	PepsiCo, Inc.
AstraZeneca	Eli Lilly and Company	Pfizer
Baxter Healthcare Corporation	Exxon Mobil Corporation	Procter & Gamble
Beckman Coulter	General Electric	SanDisk Corporation
Boston Scientific	Genzyme	Sangamo BioSciences, Inc.
Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.	GlaxoSmithKline	Texas Instruments
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Henkel Corporation	United Technologies
Cargill, Inc.	Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc.	Weyerhaeuser
Caterpillar	Johnson & Johnson	Wyeth
Cephalon	Medtronic	American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA)
CheckFree	Merck	
Corning	Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	
	Monsanto	

Cc: Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader
Honorable James Clyburn, Majority Whip
Honorable John Conyers, Chairman, Judiciary Committee
Honorable Howard Berman, Chairman, Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property