

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

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Department of Commerce Views Letter Builds Momentum on Patent Reform
Patent reform should stimulate R&D investment leading to job creation

Washington, D.C. – Gary Griswold, Chairman of the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, issued the following statement after release of Commerce Secretary Locke’s letter on S. 515, “The Patent Reform Act of 2009,” reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this year.

“Secretary Locke’s letter endorsing S. 515 as reported is a critical, positive development toward enacting meaningful, and needed, patent reform. Having the support of the Secretary of Commerce will clearly add to the momentum in the Congress to enact this important legislation.

On a number of key issues in S. 515, Secretary Locke proposes a balance that will benefit all of the nation’s inventors. The support of the Commerce Department for the first-inventor-to file system, an enhanced post-grant review system designed to prevent delay and abuse, and a “gatekeeper” approach for determining damages, among other changes, will lead to enhanced efficiency in the USPTO, improved patent quality, and an approach to calculating patent damages that will ensure it remains fair and balanced across all industry sectors.

The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform believes the views letter will hasten getting patent reform adopted by Congress. We will continue our support for S. 515 and work with Congress to secure enactment of this sound reform of our patent laws.”

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The coalition has approximately 50 members from 18 diverse industry sectors and includes many of the nation’s leading manufacturers and researchers. The coalition’s steering committee includes 3M, Caterpillar, General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, Eli Lilly and Procter & Gamble. The coalition has members in a variety of industry sectors including: Aerospace and Defense, Chemical, Computers, Diversified Financials, Diversified Technology, Energy, Food Production, Forest & Paper Products, Health Care, Household & Personal Products, Industrial Equipment, Medical Equipment & Devices, Network & Communications, Payroll Services, Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, Semiconductors & Electronic Components, and Transportation Equipment.

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