

THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY PATENT REFORM

Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness

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Patent Reform: Protects American Innovation and Promotes Jobs

Washington, D.C. – Gary Griswold, chairman of the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, released the following statement today after an oversight hearing of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in the House Judiciary Committee.

"Over the past several weeks, the U.S. Department of Commerce and USPTO have outlined the need and benefits of pending patent reform legislation. Today, Director Kappos was very clear in supporting legislative changes that will not only fully fund the PTO, but also 'simplify the patent process, reduce legal costs, improve quality and fairness, and make significant progress towards a more harmonized international patent system, while continuing to protect intellectual property.'

Our coalition supports the Managers' Amendment to S. 515 to fund the USPTO and allow the office to use all of the fees it collects. America's inventors and workers need a fully-funded USPTO and comprehensive patent reform to protect our leadership in innovation and promote job growth. The American economy depends upon the ability of inventors, businesses and entrepreneurs to innovate and bring new ideas to the global marketplace. Congress has worked on patent reform legislation for five years, the pending Manager's Amendment to S. 515 addresses the needs of the USPTO and gives inventors the incentives and protections to research and make discoveries.

Members of the House and the Senate need to work with the Administration and inventors to adopt comprehensive, bipartisan patent reform that advances our global competitiveness and puts more Americans to work."

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The coalition has nearly 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. Visit <http://www.patentsmatter.com> for more information.