

# THE COALITION FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PATENT REFORM

*Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness*

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## **Coalition Opposes “Patent and Trademark Office Fee Modernization Act of 2010”**

### *Legislation Placed on Suspension Calendar for Tuesday*

**Washington, D.C.** -- The chairman of the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, Gary Griswold, today released the following statement as the House of Representatives prepared to consider *The Patent and Trademark Office Fee Modernization Act of 2010* scheduled for a vote the Suspension Calendar on Tuesday, May 18.

The Coalition is opposed to *The Patent and Trademark Office Fee Modernization Act of 2010*. The nation needs legislation that guarantees that any fees paid by inventors will be used to process their applications.

*The Patent and Trademark Office Fee Modernization Act of 2010* fails to include the efficiency and quality enhancing provisions contained in the managers’ amendment to S. 515, *The Patent Reform Act of 2010*, that would simplify the rules and procedures for granting patents, allow the public to provide patent examiners with relevant information before deciding whether a patent can be granted, and permit prompt challenges of newly issued patents to ensure they satisfy the rigorous standards for patenting. Attached to the statement is a one-page document the Coalition has circulated to House offices.

“The House legislation under consideration allows the USPTO to increase its fees – but fees are being diverted this year and could be diverted in future years – and the bill provides none of the tools needed to improve the patent system. Our country’s inventors and innovators need comprehensive patent reform – and so does the USPTO and our economy. The agency needs more than money to solve its problems and properly manage patent applications.”

The Coalition for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Patent Reform supports a fully funded USPTO that is allowed to use all of the fees it collects. Congress should work with the Administration and inventors to adopt comprehensive, bipartisan patent reform that advances our leadership in innovation and creates more jobs.”

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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.