

April 14, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR PATENT REFORM LEGISLATION

Dear Chairman Smith:

The American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) wishes to thank the House Judiciary Committee for its prompt consideration of H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act. We believe this will lead to finally achieving one of the most important legislative milestones in the effort to secure the U.S. position as the worldwide leader in innovation and the jobs it produces. On balance, we support H.R. 1249 and the Manager's Amendment to the legislation.

We particularly appreciate a number of critical improvements in the law which this legislation provides, including the adoption of a first-inventor-to-file patent system, sustainable funding for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, thereby bringing budget predictability to this critical agency, and the creation of an ever more effective post-grant review procedure.

While AIPLA, like virtually all interested parties, cannot say that it agrees with every provision in the bill, we are confident that any remaining issues can and must be resolved in order for us to see enacted the most significant changes to the patent law in more than half a century. We remain available to help bring about this momentous achievement. We look forward to Congress finishing this work to deliver the kind of patent reform the American innovation community wants and deserves.

Sincerely,



David Hill
AIPLA President