

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

For Immediate Release
April 2, 2009

Contact: Bill Mashek
202.354.8275
bmashek@pstrategies.com

Coalition Supports Patent Reform Legislation Adopted in Senate Judiciary Committee

Bill Will Strengthen America's Patent System, Stimulate Invention and Create Jobs

Washington, D.C. – The Chairman of the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, Gary Griswold, released the following statement after the Senate Judiciary Committee adopted S. 515, *The Patent Reform Act of 2009*, by a 15-4 vote. As the bill moves to the Senate floor, the Coalition will continue to work in support of the effort to improve the U.S. patent system.

“For more than six years, the Congress has worked on comprehensive patent reform legislation. Today's strong vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee is an important and meaningful step toward needed reform. The compromise package offered by Chairman Leahy, Senator Specter, Senator Feinstein and other Senators had our Coalition's strong support. As the patent reform bill proceeds through the legislative process, we will continue to work with other Members of Congress to make further technical changes which will facilitate the bill moving toward enactment.

Our Coalition appreciates and recognizes the focus and hard work by Senators and their staff over the past several weeks that led to the reporting of the bill by the Committee. The compromise package, together with the other critical provisions of the bill, should improve the U.S. patent system.

With today's vote, the 111th Congress has set a course that will foster American innovation and employment by ensuring the patent system is fair, balanced and promotes research and innovation.”

-- 30 --

The coalition has 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 www.patentmatter.com for more information.