

THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY PATENT REFORM

Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness

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Senator Leahy Introduces Patent Bill with Strong Bipartisan Cosponsors

Bipartisan Effort Will Strengthen USPTO, Provide Jobs, Encourage Innovation

Washington, D.C. – Recognizing the need to promote innovation and create jobs, the 112th Congress today moved forward in the Senate and House of Representatives to address the patent system. Senators Patrick Leahy, Orrin Hatch, and Chuck Grassley introduced S. 23, *The Patent Reform Act of 2011*, today while the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet held a hearing on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

S. 23 builds upon the Senate legislation from the 111th Congress; the Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to mark up the bill quickly. “There is real momentum to move ahead with patent reform,” said the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform’s Gary Griswold. “We are very appreciative of the support that this important issue is receiving. Our Coalition believes we can have bipartisan legislation that improves our patent system including providing the USPTO with the resources necessary to begin reducing its current backlog of patent applications and enhancing the quality of the patents that are granted.”

At the House hearing, Doug Norman, General Patent Counsel at Eli Lilly and Company – and a member of the steering committee of the Coalition – testified on behalf of the Intellectual Property Owners Association.

“This is a strong starting point for proponents of patent reform,” Griswold said. “S. 23 has strong bipartisan cosponsors and the House Judiciary Committee has put the patent system as a priority.”

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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. Visit <http://www.patentsmatter.com> for more information.