

THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY PATENT REFORM

Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness

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Coalition Praises House Approval of Leahy/Smith America Invents Act

Inventors To Benefit from Reforms That Encourage Investments and Job Growth

Washington, D.C. – Gary Griswold of the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform today released the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives adopted H.R. 1249, *The Leahy/Smith America Invents Act of 2011* with a vote of 304-117. Under the leadership of House Judiciary Chairman Lamar Smith and the other members of the Committee, the House of Representatives has now joined the Senate in adopting meaningful patent reform which strengthens the incentives for inventors and businesses across the country to invest their time and energies in the research and commercialization of innovations which will create jobs.

“The House of Representatives, through the leadership of Chairman Lamar Smith, has responded to the needs of America’s inventors to improve our patent system and promote innovation across the country. It has been 60 years since the patent system was last updated, and Congress has actively debated the reforms over the past six years; but H.R. 1249 is the right bill at the right time for American innovation.

The Leahy/Smith America Invents Act will modernize the operations of the USPTO, enhance the quality of examinations and patents granted, and provide the resources necessary to begin reducing the backlog of patent applications. The bill will move the country toward a first-inventor-to-file system that simplifies patent law and speeds final patentability determinations by using objective criteria and publicly available information, thus reducing the overall costs of obtaining patents.

Our Coalition is confident that H.R. 1249 can be reconciled with S. 23 that was adopted earlier this year by the U.S. Senate. We look forward to the bill moving to the White House.

Inventors know that innovation is the key to our nation’s future; today’s vote is a great step toward improving the patent system benefiting all Americans.”

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Visit www.patentsmatter.com for more information. 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.