

THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY PATENT REFORM

Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness

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Senate Vote Sends Leahy/Smith America Invents Act to White House

Inventors Across the Nation Have New Incentives To Research and Develop New Ideas

Washington, D.C. – The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform today released the following statement after the U.S. Senate, with a 89-9 vote, approved the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act of 2011. With the Senate's vote on H.R. 1249, the bill now moves to the White House for President Obama's signature.

“Today's vote, after six years of hard work and debate in both the House and Senate, is the last legislative step necessary for significantly strengthening the U.S. patent system for all American inventors. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Grassley, Senator Kyl and many other Members and legislative staff, were instrumental in securing today's passage of this landmark bill that will encourage American innovation for years to come.

The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act provides a package of clearly needed improvements to our patent system that will help innovators compete in today's global marketplace. Inventors and patent applicants will have a simpler, more transparent and objective path to patent protection. At the same time, they benefit from a reduction in the time, costs and unpredictability associated with the current system.

Our Coalition urges President Obama to sign the legislation quickly. We look forward to working with USPTO Director Kappos on the implementation of the bill's provisions. We will closely monitor the new Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund to ensure that all patent fees remain within the Patent and Trademark Office and are promptly available to serve the needs of inventors and the public.

The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act gives our nation a modern, world-class patent system that allows innovation to flourish and create new industries that will add thousands of well-paying jobs for American workers.”

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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.