

THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY PATENT REFORM

Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness

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Leahy/Smith America Invents Act Positions Inventors to “Win the Future”

President Obama’s Signs Patent Reform Bill – Administration’s Support Key to Passage

Washington, D.C. – The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform today released the following statement after President Barack Obama signed the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act of 2011 at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va.

“Our patent system, since the days of Thomas Jefferson, has worked to inspire inventors to make advancements that benefit society. The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, signed by President Obama today, realigns the patent system to match the realities of today’s technologically-driven economy to meet the needs of all inventors.

America’s future will be based on the inventions stimulated by the patent system and the jobs they create. This new law will give inventors greater confidence in the patents they receive and give companies stronger incentives to invest in the research and development necessary to ensure that our nation maintains its leadership in innovation.

The America Invents Act provides a package of clearly needed improvements to our patent system that will help American innovators compete in a global marketplace. Inventors will have a simpler, more transparent and objective path to patent protection. By creating a new Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund, the law ensures that the fees paid by inventors will be available to the Patent and Trademark Office and used only to serve their needs and the operations of the Office. Retaining these fees will allow the Office to handle a growing volume of applications, reduce pendency and increase the quality of reviews.

Passing and signing this once-in-a-generation patent reform package is a great achievement for the Congress and Administration. Leadership from the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office were instrumental in crafting this legislation. Our Coalition of diverse companies appreciates the time and hard work undertaken by so many Members, their staff, and the PTO and DOC officials during the development of this important legislation.

We look forward to collaborating with the PTO on the implementation of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act and putting the provisions to work for all inventors.”

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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.