

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

## Vote for Bipartisan Jobs Creation Bill Support the America Invents Act

June 13, 2011

Dear Colleague:

We write today to urge your support for passage of H.R. 1249, The America Invents Act. Inventors and innovators, either on their own or at businesses large and small, are the life blood of new ideas and growth in the United States. A more reliable and efficient patent system will encourage the development of new technologies that will create jobs across the country, grow businesses and help us better compete in the global economy.

The opportunity to take a risk, invest time and money, innovate and be rewarded is a cornerstone of the American dream. For decades, America's economic prowess has been secured through a reliable and efficient patent system. Increasingly, however, existing patent laws have not able to keep up with the pace of 21<sup>st</sup> Century technological developments or our foreign competitors.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is faced with a current backlog of over 700,000 patent applications because they lack the resources and funding to process patent applications in a timely and efficient manner. It is estimated that the U.S. could create as many as 2.25 million new jobs, over the next 3 years, simply by eliminating the patent backlog. Further, the current "first to invent" patent process has been cumbersome and inefficient, making it more difficult for innovators to gain patents while at the same time providing little benefit to those challenging a patent. These challenges are hindering our ability to remain competitive with the rest of the world and create jobs here at home.

Our constituents are eager for this House to come together and act to bolster economic recovery and put America on a stronger competitive footing for the future. Congress has been working on meaningful patent reform for 6 years with no success. After considerable effort, we finally have bipartisan agreement on a patent reform bill that updates our patent laws in a balanced and fair manner and gives the USPTO the tools and funding it needs to support all inventors. The America Invents Act is also supported by a broad coalition of industry groups, businesses and universities from across the country.

The Senate passed its version of the America Invents Act by a vote of 95 to 5, and the House Judiciary Committee approved a similar version, H.R. 1249, by a vote of 32 to 3. We should keep the momentum going and enact these overdue patent reforms which will directly lead to new jobs and a stronger economy. We urge your support for bipartisan passage of H.R. 1249, The America Invents Act, when it comes before the House for a vote.

  
Joe Donnelly  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

  
Dan Boren  
Member of Congress