

December 12, 2007

Senators Chambliss and Isakson  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Chambliss and Isakson:

As Georgia employers, we are writing to express our concerns about patent legislation moving through the Senate. While we support efforts to update and improve our patent system, we are concerned that this well-intentioned legislation in its current form will diminish patents, undermine innovation, increase litigation, and threaten jobs and manufacturing in Georgia.

Economic growth depends upon the continued strength and reliability of the U.S. patent system, which has recognized and protected the rights of inventors for more than two centuries. We are especially concerned about the proposed changes to the well-established principles used to calculate damage awards and the addition of a costly new post-grant opposition system that would undermine a patent's enforceability potentially throughout its life. These unprecedented changes would combine to destabilize America's incentive-based system of innovation and encourage a weakening of patent rights worldwide.

We are hopeful that this legislation will be amended to address our concerns prior to Floor consideration. We look forward to supporting patent reform legislation that will improve patent quality without diminishing patent rights and the strength of the U.S. patent system. We stand ready to work with you to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

The Coca-Cola Company  
PepsiCo  
AngioDynamics  
Cummins-Allison Corp.

Procter & Gamble  
QUALCOMM Inc.  
Altea Therapeutics

Caterpillar Inc.  
Georgia BIO  
CardioMEMS