

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2009

The Honorable John Conyers
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers:

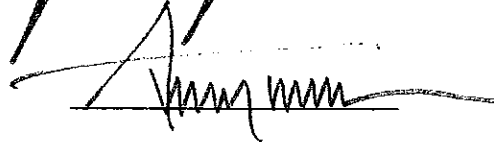
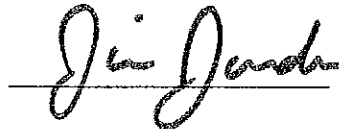

We appreciate your efforts in the last Congress on H.R. 1908, "The Patent Reform Act of 2007." As you know, that bill ignited strong debate on the House floor resulting in a narrow twenty-three vote margin. A similar bill in the Senate was eventually denied any floor time.

As you're aware, H.R. 1260, "The Patent Reform Act of 2009" introduced last week, is essentially the same legislation with the same goals as the previous bill. We believe, in addition to its substantive shortcomings, one of the reasons the previous legislation attracted so much opposition was due to the less than comprehensive vetting it received in committee. H.R.1260 is a 76 page bill dealing with a complex subject matter. It is a challenge to understand how its provisions impact different industry segments.

If we are going to attempt again this year to fundamentally amend our patent laws, we urge you to convene several hearings on the legislation in order to allow all key industries affected an opportunity to be heard.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the U.S. patent system remains the best in the world.

Sincerely,



Cc: Ranking Member Lamar Smith
Members House Judiciary Committee