

October 29, 2007

The Honorable Claire C. McCaskill
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

SENT VIA EMAIL AND FACSIMILE

Dear Senator McCaskill:

We are a group of Missouri employers who are very concerned about certain provisions of The Patent Reform Act of 2007, S. 1145. We support sensible measures to improve U.S. patent law in order to promote innovations that drive our economy. However, as companies with a combined total of 15,782 employees in your state, we oppose significant portions of this bill that are detrimental to Missouri.

In an effort to reform the patent system, we believe S. 1145 will actually have negative impacts on the U.S. economy and people in Missouri by:

- reducing jobs and job creation by companies, including manufacturers, that develop or implement patented technologies in Missouri;
- making patents of Missouri-based innovators more likely to be infringed;
- reducing quality and longevity of lives by discouraging innovation in healthcare and medical services; and,
- reducing the competitiveness of Missouri farmers in international markets who depend on innovation to efficiently produce food, feed, fiber and bio-energy.

S. 1145 will fundamentally reduce the value of innovation by making it easier to challenge patents after they have been granted, making it less costly to infringe patented technology, and creating obstacles for employers to protect intellectual property in Missouri's courts. Across the country, there is growing awareness and opposition to these elements of the bill. Businesses and organizations spanning academia, manufacturers, labor unions, and corporate research labs share these concerns.

The transition to a knowledge-based economy is alive and well in Missouri. In its current form, S. 1145 would hinder this progress and cast uncertainty on our economic development as well as the pace and delivery of innovative products and services for all Missouri citizens.

We urge you to take action now to protect the Missouri economy and the future of our citizens by asking the Senate leadership to make significant changes to the legislation before consideration by the full senate.

Sincerely submitted by the following companies,

3M

Novus International, Inc.

BASF Corporation

Cummins-Allison Corporation

Bayer CropScience

PepsiCo

Caterpillar

Pfizer

Divergence

Sigma Aldrich Co.

Missouri Biotechnology Industry
Organization

The Solae Company

Monsanto Company

Solutia Inc.