515 2nd St. NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-543-3003
202-543-3008 FAX

Amsterdam Brussels Chicago Dusseldorf Johannesburg London Sydney Tokyo Toronto Washington DC

July 17, 2007

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard L. Berman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet
Intellectual Property
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard Coble
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and
and Intellectual Property
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for Patent Reform Act of 2007/H.R. 1908

Dear Chairman Conyers, Chairman Berman, Representative Smith, and Representative Coble:

The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) supports passage of the Patent Reform Act of 2007 as critical to restore balance to the U.S. patent system and ensure continued growth and innovation in the technology sector.

CompTIA is the largest computer industry trade association in the United States. While our 22,000 members include most of the largest hardware, software and services vendors in the industry, we are perhaps best known for the many thousand so called, value-added-resellers or VARs who make up 75% of our membership. These typically small computer companies are the backbone of America's information economy.

VARs are the principle source of computer support for America's small business. An average VAR might have 6 employees and manage the computer systems for 100 small businesses. An estimated 32,000 American VARs computer-enable small business today selling some $43 billion dollars worth of computer hardware, software and services. In this way, VARs are dependent upon a steady stream of innovative technology hardware and software products from IT vendors. While VARs, and the small businesses whom they serve, may or may not hold patents themselves, they are critically dependent upon a robust and well functioning patent system to sustain their important segment of American small business.

515 2nd St. NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-543-3003
202-543-3008 FAX

Amsterdam Brussels Chicago Dusseldorf Johannesburg London Sydney Tokyo Toronto Washington DC

For this reason, CompTIA supports the comprehensive approach to patent reform undertaken by the Patent Reform Act that:

- **Improves patent quality.** Enhancing patent re-examination proceedings, allowing third parties to submit prior art during the examination process and the creation of a post-grant opposition proceeding are important reforms that will improve patent quality.
- **Clarifies apportionment of damages.** Damages should only be awarded that correspond to the infringed patent.
- **Restricts forum shopping.** Cases should be brought in courts with some reasonable connection to the case.
- **Establishes fair standards for punitive damages.** Awarding treble damages for "wilful" patent should be reserved for cases of egregious conduct, as required by the U.S. Supreme Court for virtually all other punitive damages.

We urge Congress to pass patent reform legislation this year that includes these essential reforms. Meaningful reform that restores balance to the U.S. patent system is critical to the continued success of our IT industry members large and small.

Sincerely,

Roger Cochetti
Group Director-U.S. Public Policy