



Office of the Vice President  
Governmental Programs

600 14th Street, Northwest, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005

June 28, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
U.S. Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee  
U.S. Senate  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write on behalf of IBM to urge you to work with Senate leadership to bring H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, to the Senate floor and adopt this legislation as soon as possible.

Last week, the House passed H.R. 1249 by a decisive margin of 304-117. This legislation is very consistent with S. 23, which the Senate passed 95-5. The House version contains improvements as a result of additional work and compromise. We strongly urge the Senate to take up the House bill and pass it, so that the President can sign this vital legislation as quickly as possible.

IBM invests billions of dollars each year in research and development. Patents help us protect this substantial investment and provide freedom of action for our businesses across the world. H.R.1249 will give USPTO the resources and tools it needs to speed examination of patents to generate economic growth by moving innovations into the market place at a faster pace.

H.R. 1249 is supported by a broad coalition of industry leaders and universities after years of striving for compromise. This legislation will bring essential and significant improvements to the U.S. patent system, balance the needs of inventors of all sizes in all industries, and spur innovation essential to ensuring U.S. economic competitiveness. The time to act is now. IBM urges the Senate to act quickly to pass H.R. 1249.

Sincerely,

Christopher Padilla