

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 30, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi

We are writing to express concerns about the pending patent reform legislation (H.R. 1908). As you know, patents are the lifeblood of the enormously diverse economic engines that drive our economy. That diversity is one of the reasons that the United States economy is the strongest in the world. While our patent system is in need of reform, we are very concerned that the bill in its present form picks winners and losers among industries with different business models in a way that has never before been attempted in patent law or practice.

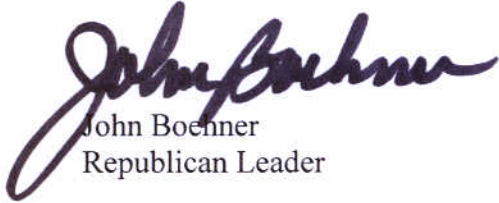
Unquestionably, improving our patent system and the quality of patents is of paramount importance. However, those improvements cannot come at the cost of some domestic industries over others. There is no doubt that the bill's sponsors have worked hard on the legislation, but a bill of this importance and impact should not be rushed to the floor for quick passage. In our current political climate it is rare to find an issue that unites groups from the AFL-CIO to Eagle Forum in opposition to a bill they view as undermining the patent system that created quality jobs and American innovation. With manufacturers, labor unions, universities, biotech companies, high tech innovators, independent inventors, and others all expressing concerns about the patent bill in its present form, it is a strong and clear signal that more work needs to be done to reach consensus on patent reform.

We agree that some progress has been made, for example, on the post grant opposition issue, nonetheless we remain concerned that the right balance has not yet been struck on many other crucial issues within the patent reform debate—such as damages, rulemaking authority for the Patent & Trademark Office (PTO), inequitable conduct, and others.

Rather than scheduling this bill for quick consideration by the House, we are asking you to work with the sponsors in urging them to continue to work to find

consensus so that all U.S. companies benefit from reforming the patent system rather than advantaging one business model over another. If that course is pursued, we stand ready to work with you in a bipartisan manner for an outcome that benefits the entire U.S. economy.

Sincerely,



John Boehner
Republican Leader



Roy Blunt
Republican Whip

cc: Hon. John Conyers
Hon. Lamar Smith
Hon. Howard Berman
Hon. Howard Coble