

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2008

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Dear Chairman Leahy:

Our patent laws are vital to the United States' competitiveness and prosperity, and we applaud your ongoing efforts to craft meaningful patent reform legislation.

As you are well aware, the patent protections enshrined in our Constitution have long been critical to the United States' position as a global leader in fields as varied as technology, medicine, and manufacturing. Nowhere is this more true than in our State of New Jersey. The companies that call New Jersey home are innovators in the health care and manufacturing industries, among others, and rely on patents to protect their sizeable investments in research and development. These patent protections are also vital to the working families who depend on the high-skilled, well-paying jobs these industries offer in New Jersey and across the country.

We write to urge you to ensure that any patent reform legislation that comes to the Senate floor maintains the strong patent protections on which these companies—and their tens of thousands of employees in New Jersey alone—rely so heavily. Making reforms to improve patent quality while also preserving the critical protections of our patent system is the best way to guarantee that the United States continues to lead the way in innovation and manufacturing. We look forward to working with you on such a compromise.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG


ROBERT MENENDEZ

cc: Majority Leader Harry Reid