

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

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U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act, as approved by the House of Representatives.

Intellectual property is the lifeblood of our economy, and its protection assures manufacturers that their inventions will be secure as they create jobs and build industries around them. The America Invents Act gives the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) the necessary resources and provides inventors the tools to ensure our patent system remains the best in the world.

The centerpiece of an effective intellectual property protection regime is an adequately staffed, efficiently operated, fully funded USPTO that processes patent and trademark applications in a high-quality and expeditious fashion. Due to the current lack of resources, the backlog of patent applications awaiting review totals more than one million, and the average time to process an application is close to three years. These delays threaten the ability of manufacturers to bring innovative products to the marketplace before their international competitors.

Manufacturers also support language in H.R. 1249 transitioning our nation from a "first-to-invent" system to a "first-to-file" system, as it will eliminate unnecessary cost and complexity in the U.S. patent system. Manufacturers large and small operate in the global marketplace, and the United States needs to move toward a system that will provide more patent protection for manufacturers and inventors around the world.

H.R. 1249 also makes key changes that allow the United States to bring actions against those who deliberately deceive the public through false patent marking while eliminating frivolous and costly lawsuits brought against manufacturers of mass-produced items. Manufacturers strongly support these provisions, as well.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 1249, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 112th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote