



Dorothy Coleman

Vice President

Tax, Technology & Domestic Economic Policy

March 2, 2011

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to oppose amendment 133 offered by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) to S. 23, The America Invents Act.

The amendment would remove a key provision in S.23, The America Invents Act, which is strongly supported by manufacturers, the creation of a "first-inventor-to-file" system.

The NAM supports transitioning the United States from a "first-to-invent" system to a "first-to-file" system to 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 **around the world** for our innovative member companies. The "first-to-file" provision currently included in S. 23 achieves this goal.

Thank you for your consideration and your support for the "first-to-file" system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dorothy Coleman'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.